

ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ՀԱՅ ԱԻԵՏԱՐԱՆՉԱԿԱՆ ԸՆԿԵՐԱԿՑՈՒԹԻՒՆ
ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



ARMANI

NEWS



Souvenirs
by DibaSar (Dibar Apartian)

XLIX 2

JAN-FEB-MARCH
2015

**SPECIAL ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
CENTENNIAL ISSUE**





1915-2015
Centennial of the
Armenian Genocide

Կը Յիշեմ եւ Կը Պահանջեմ
I Remember and Demand

AMAA NEWS

is a publication of
The Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: (201) 265-2607; Fax: (201) 265-6015
E-mail: info@amaa.org
Website: www.amaa.org
(ISSN 1097-0924)

The AMAA is a tax-exempt, not for profit
organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO
Levon Filian, West Coast Executive Director
David Aynejian, Director of Finance

OFFICERS

Nazareth Darakjian, M.D., President
Michael Voskian, D.M.D., Vice President
Thomas Momjian, Esq., Recording Secretary
Arsine Phillips, Esq., Recording Secretary
Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., Treasurer

EDITORIAL BOARD

Zaven Khanjian, Editor in Chief
Levon Filian, Editor
Louisa Janbazian, Associate Editor, Art Director
Jane Wenning, Contributor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to keep our mailing list up to date, please
send all corrections, along with the old address, to:
AMAA NEWS
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652
E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

DESIGN

Caspianseal.com

NEW COVER DESIGN

Yearbook, Inc.

PRINTING

Printsolutions.info
Englewood, NJ
Tel: (201) 567-9622

Join us on Facebook (AMAA)
Follow us on Twitter (@AMAAInc)

Editorial Message

He Is Risen! And So Are We!

Zaven Khanjian

Մեռելներու իբրեւ խաչ՝ եւ այս ծառը տնկեցի
As a cross for my dead ones, I planted this tree
Levon Zaven Surmelian

In my adult life, the most tormenting subject on my psyche has been and remains to be the inner turmoil and agony of the mind, caused by the immeasurable and unconscionable pain and suffering my forebears were subjected to by a heinous cabal, unabashedly recognized as the state government of Ottoman Turkey, at the turn of the 20th century.

Forgetting the cruel and brutal sickling of an indigenous people, peacefully residing, toiling and tilling an over four millennium homeland, is beyond my human capacity. I have no right to forget the abominable fate of a million and a half innocent victims uprooted from an ancestral home and led to their extinction by the sword, starvation, sickness or the desert sand.

I rejoice with many brave and astute fellow Christians who have reconciled with the pain in their faith. I have read articles, listened to sermons and received mail reflecting that soaring spirit of joy and reconciliation in Christ, all of which have broken the cuffs of bondage for many.

I have total admiration for all.

In a few days we shall celebrate the victorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Easter is a core, pivotal celebration, the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Together we proclaim, sing and rejoice that Jesus rose from the dead. This is a vital and fundamental reality of our faith, the spring of hope that flows into our minds and souls with the promise of divine justice and eternal life for our martyrs who will attain a heavenly life away from the miseries and anguish experienced on earth.

I realize the infinite divine love demonstrated by Jesus on the cross when He said "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

But 'they' knew what they were doing and 'their' progeny are still sucked into the slime of a denial to cover the crime and maintain the loot.

I have no prejudices against any race or creed and hold no hatred toward any living human being. I recognize that all mankind



are the children of God. Overcoming my resistance, I experienced the joy and pain of visiting my ancestral home in 2006 where my paternal and maternal grandfathers had been murdered in 1915. In a gesture of goodwill and demonstration of peaceful coexistence and in the footsteps of the poet's advice

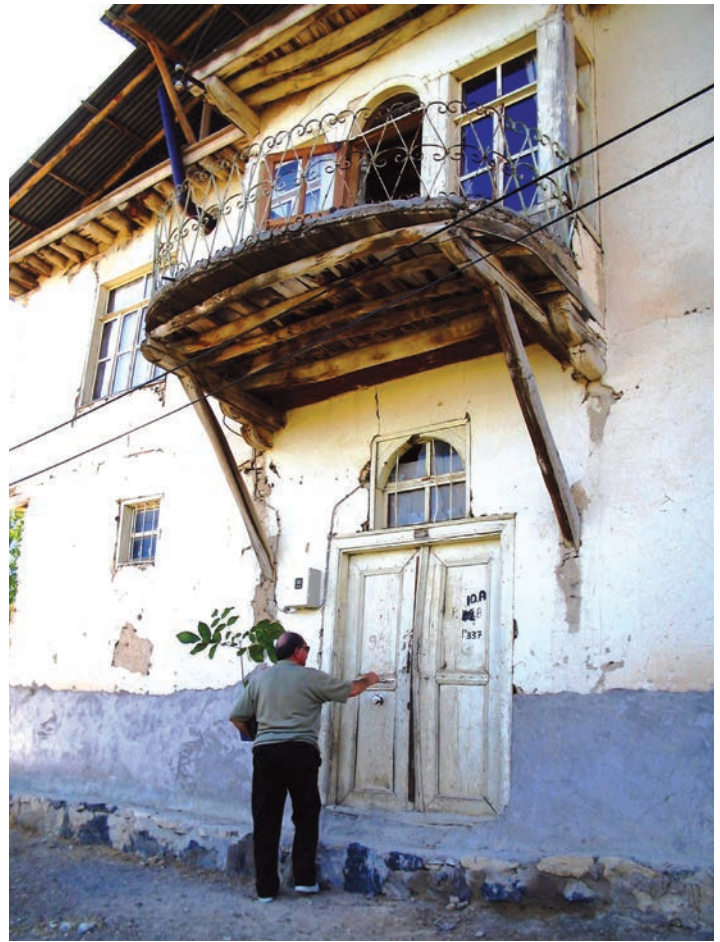
Մեռելներու իբրեւ խաչ՝ ես այս ծառը տնկեցի
As a cross for my dead ones, I planted this tree

I planted a walnut tree considering its longevity and protective nature in the garden of the house with the help of the current resident, a Turk. I wished and prayed that the tree would grow and provide shade to the house and fruit to the occupant, any occupant, for many, many years to come.

Today, with the celebration of Easter, as we jubilantly praise God and hail the resurrection of the nation from the ashes of the crime against humanity, we bow to the memory of our martyrs who perished for bravely anchoring their existence in their ethnicity and their refusal to deny their crucified and risen Lord.

We vow to perpetuate the faith, the language, the culture and overcome evil with more song and dance, hope and prayer, smiles and joy all for the Glory of God who said "It is mine to avenge; I will repay." (Romans 12:19)

Քրիստոս Յարեալ Ի Մեռելոց,
Օրինեալ Է Յարութիւնն Քրիստոսի!
Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!



Zaven Khanjian knocking at the door of his grandparents' home in Western Armenia in 2006.



Cover Art Work: **SOUVENIRS**

Technique: Mixed Media on Canvas

Size: 90 x 90 cm

Artist: DibaSar (Dibar Asadour Apartian)

The artwork **Souvenirs** represents the survivors of the Armenian Genocide or those of any other war. It combines the past and the present that the Armenians and other nations have gone through and where they are heading today. The woman in the artwork represents each survivor, who has lost much but is still alive, carrying the memory of her people, their history, tradition and culture. Her face expresses nostalgia and suffering. The feeling of **Souvenirs** was passed on to the artist

DibaSar through his parents and his grandparents, from generation to generation, without ignoring what is going on today. That scene is returning, and not only Armenians, but everyone is concerned. For the artist, **Souvenirs** represents his Armenian people and race, and all those who have been charged by the memory of the past, living in the present and walking to the future with new positive energy.

The artist, **Dibar Asadour Apartian**, known as **DibaSar**, was born in Aleppo, Syria on May 4, 1971. He is the son of the late Rev. Barkev Apartian, a prominent Armenian Evangelical minister. At a very young age, DibaSar studied at the Sarian School of Fine Arts in Aleppo. Later, he continued his training in adult classes at the Arshile Gorky School. After graduating from high school, he moved to Yerevan, Armenia and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Yerevan from 1991 to 1994. His first exhibition was held in 1996 at the Armenian Cultural Center of Aleppo and in 1997 he participated in the Union of Syrian Artists Exhibition. That same year he also exhibited at the Salon of Contemporary Arts in Beirut, Lebanon. He later moved to France, where he had his first exhibition at Saint Mesrob Cultural Center in Paris in 2000. In January 2001, DibaSar participated in the 1700th Anniversary of Armenian Christianity exhibition "Views of Christian Armenia." Today, DibaSar continues to paint and exhibit in France and has his own gallery, DibaSar Gallery. Please visit his website at www.dibasart.com or his Facebook page at DibaSar Gallery.

A Beacon of Light



By NAZARETH DARAKJIAN, M.D., President of AMAA Board

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Light was one of the first gifts that God gave to the newborn universe, which indicates the important role light was meant to play in the formation, as well as in the maintenance of the universe. That was physical light. Yet in the abundance of physical light, according to the prophet Isaiah, mankind was still "walking in darkness." When Jesus was born, the Gospel of John identified him as the "True Light." The "true light" had come to illuminate the spirit of man, but mankind did not recognize Him, except for a few. Those who accepted Him were given a commission; to shine, to illuminate and to give of themselves to help those who were struggling in the dark.

In the darkness that followed the first genocide of the 20th century and the most destructive World War that mankind had ever experienced, a few good men came together on the East Coast of the United States and established the Armenian Missionary Association of America, to serve as a **beacon of light**, to feed the hungry and help the needy, to educate the mind and guide the spirit, to preach the Good News of the Gospel.

For ninety seven years the AMAA has been pursuing these goals and has become the missionary arm of the Armenian Evangelical

Church worldwide. The AMAA today represents the collective missionary aspirations of Armenian Evangelical individuals and churches across the world. Whatever would have been prohibitive for individual churches and groups to do by themselves, the AMAA can do by reaching out across the seas and the continents because it enjoys the support of Armenian Evangelicals all over the world.

The last 100 years have unquestionably been one of the most difficult times in the history of the Armenian nation. But I do believe that we have the opportunity to make the next 100 into another "**vosgetar**," a golden century, comparable to the 5th century when the Armenian alphabet was invented, the Bible translated into the vernacular and Christianity firmly entrenched as the sole religion of the Armenian people. That was the time when the Armenian people took up arms and fought the mighty Persian king who wanted to convert them to the Zoroasterian religion and so they died for their faith on the plain of Avarair. Yes, we can build another "**vosgetar**" by being a **beacon of light** in the darkness, by reaching out to the poor and needy, by healing the sick and supporting the infirm, we can turn the next century into the best ever by building more churches, schools and summer camps, by spreading the Bible and by bringing the Armenian people back to their Christian roots. This is what the AMAA stands for. □

Save the Date

96th Annual Meeting of the AMAA

The 96th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the related activities will be held October 15-18, 2015 at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, 725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132

Details to follow!

Our Story God's Story



By **REV. L. NISHAN BAKALIAN**

One of the most important things that happened after people encountered the Lord was that they had a story to tell, a firsthand story of faith and compassion. That is how the church grew. And we, too, have a "story to tell to the nations," including to our own Armenian people; a great story of Jesus and His salvation, His amazing grace. Are we ready to tell it?

Our story is a real-life story, including things we would rather not remember, and even things that people find offensive. Proclamation of the Gospel must include stories of pain, brokenness and sin. In Psalm 22, King David writes a sorrowful story of oppression and abandonment, but concludes it with praise and trust. His story prophetically described the story of Jesus on the cross, but beyond that His victory. Just so, the story of the future and hope that the Lord has given us as individuals and collectively as an Armenian people will include the story of the wounds that were inflicted upon us. It will also include the story of our stubborn pride and our attachment to material wealth. But it will especially highlight the wonderful story of Christ's saving action.

Armenian Evangelicals who gathered for their Union's annual meeting in Worcester, MA, in 1917 told of the devastation of the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenian nation; they decried the near annihilation of the spiritual life of the Armenian people, their churches, schools and leaders. But, trusting in the Lord, they went on to proclaim that they would strive "to strengthen the spiritual life of our churches, and to rebuild the ruined churches of the fatherland."* Their focus at the creation of the Armenian Missionary Association of America was to aid the reestablishment of church life and ministry among the Armenian people at home and abroad. Partnering with the decimated remnant of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, this new missionary organization would do its utmost with little means, but with great faith in the One who blesses even five loaves and two fish to feed thousands. They would begin telling the story of the persecuted church, but it would turn into a story of praise. It is the story of a broken and battered church's Lord, who "does not despise the affliction of the afflicted, nor turns his face from them, but has heard when we cried to him." (Ps. 22.24)

The growth of churches in our new homeland in the Middle East carried that story forward. It was repeated through many dedicated teachers and caring social workers, as children were being educated in newly-founded schools and the poor and destitute were being cared for, and as people in North America and elsewhere reached

out and gave generously to help the story to be told. And after about a half-century of growth and well-being, when uncertainty and civil strife reappeared, it was that same story of the Lord perfecting His strength in our weakness that we continued to tell as we trusted God and helped those in need.

And then, after 70 years of Soviet rule, when an independent but vulnerable Armenia emerged, we made it our aim, as God's redeemed, to help the church there share that story, so that its power would fill the emptiness of human hearts in Armenia. Let us be clear: it was and is *not* a story of dollars and percentages, of gains and losses, of buying and selling, but a story of the Lord who lives and reigns in our hearts, and moves us to trust in Him and courageously act, despite the advance of evil in our world, to this very day.

Telling the Lord's story through our Armenian people's story is an act of faith. It requires that first of all we trust in the Lord with our whole heart, mind and strength. We trust in the One who saved us and gave Himself for us. We trust in the Lord Jesus who formed our character as a people and endowed us with a Christian heritage. With that trust in Him we can continue to lift up in prayer the heavy burdens that our fellow-Christians (not just Armenians) throughout the world experience each day; and, despite all of that, we can audaciously tell the story of the victory of Jesus Christ, *not* the victory of evil! As those early visionaries did nearly a century ago, may our telling inspire us to continue to do our utmost wherever there is a need... and to do so in Jesus' name. □

CORRECTION

In an article by Savey Tufenkian, presenting Dr. Mihran Agbabian, in the January 2015 Special Issue of the AMAA News (page 6), the name of one of the founders of the American University of Armenia (AUA) and its current President was misspelled and incomplete. Our apologies to Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian and to our esteemed readers.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian on his recent appointment as the President of AUA and wish him much success in his mission.

* see V. Tootikian, *160th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church* (2006), pp. 55-57

An Amazing Mission

The Jinishian Memorial Program

By **REV. VARTKES M. KASSOUNI, D.Min.**

In America, very few people have heard of Vartan H. Jinishian, whereas it is different in Armenia and in the Middle East. There he is well known and admired. His legacy is celebrated in the lives of thousands upon thousands of Armenians in need of humanitarian aid who have received it and prospered because of it. Starting with the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and continuing today with thousands of our people who are again displaced and in abject need, that legacy continues to grow in dimension and impact.

It began with a \$10,000,000 endowment fund established in 1966 in memory of his parents, the Rev. Haroutune and Catherine Jinishian of Marash, Turkey, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For a number of years before that, Mr. Jinishian provided significant support in Syria and Lebanon for suffering Armenians but chose to remain incognito. He was the

"Anonymous Donor" giving through the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation. He maintained a low profile through it all and never visited the countries where these services were being provided.

Vartan Jinishian was born in 1870 in Marash, but moved to New York City when he was 18. He eventually ended up working for the H. and M. Karagheusian, Inc., which pioneered in the machine production of oriental design rugs and other carpeting, eventually climbing up the corporate ladder to the position of partner. He was a confirmed bachelor, living frugally and maintaining the values of hard work, faith and spirituality, instilled in him by his parents. He was an expert antique rug collector and dealer known up and down the East Coast, for his business, including the White House, Washington D.C.

He was a member of the Armenian Evangelical community of New York, but



Rev. Dr. Vartkes M. Kassouni

from time to time attended the Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue Presbyterian churches. I got to know him when I pastored the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York in the early 1960s. At that time, one who met him and developed a close association with him was Mr. Edward Janjigian. His own business dealings in the Middle East, and his travels there back and forth, were welcomed by Mr. Jinishian in helping him keep abreast of developments there. This trust relationship was instrumental in bringing Mr. Jinishian's estate into the Presbyterian Church, dedicated to the exclusive use for Armenians in humanitarian need.

In the implementation of this purpose, an Advisory Committee of five people was mandated, including three Armenians and two others representing the Presbyterian Church. Among them have been Leila Karagheusian, Edward Janjigian, Rev. A.A. Bedigian, Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, and Herair Mouradian. Today, they are Vicky Chopourian Gehrt, Michael Haratunian, and Mark Momjian. The non-Armenian members are Greg Allen-Pickett, and Amgad Beblawi. About his experience as a former member of the Advisory Committee, both in Beirut and in the USA, Herair Mouradian says, "I came to know many dedicated persons, many of them non-Armenians who worked hard helping needy Armenians many of whom they had not met, living in countries where they had not been to." Referring to the Civil War in Lebanon (1975-1995) he continues, "In all this turmoil, Jinishian was the God-sent



Rev. Haroutune and Catherine Jinishian



Vartan H. Jinishian

provider reaching out to poor Armenians with essential needs."

The Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF) has generated the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) which began its program in 1966. For almost 50 years, JMP has enabled Armenians in need to move from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope. In 2016, JMP will have achieved 50 years of service, serving over 50,000 Armenian people annually in Syria, Lebanon, Jerusalem, Turkey, Armenia, Nagorno Karabagh and Javakh (Georgia). Under the leadership of Eliza Minasyan, Executive Director, each country being served has its own local Directors and program staff totaling around 50 people. At present, the Country Director in Lebanon is Pauline Sagharian, the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Hagop Sagharian, who was our pastor in Cyprus during my teenage years there. Talin Topalakian is the Country Director of JMP in Syria, and Armen Hakobyan is the Country Director for Armenia.

About this mission Eliza says, "We have reached hundreds of thousands of people! Projects vary from emergency relief to community development; we adjust to particular needs in each country. Local teams decide and prioritize areas to be addressed. For example, in Syria we provide immediate relief assistance to locally displaced families, refugees in their own city. While in Armenia we implement a wide range of projects from economic development to civil society empowerment. With community and economic development, health and education programs, we are reaching those remote and abandoned regions and villages where many organizations don't go because of distances and deteriorated infrastructures... The distinctive feature of JMP is that we are open to innovation. We approach areas that have never been addressed before, and we challenge ourselves and continuously adjust our projects to better approach the issues and to provide the optimal solution to eliminate dependence on relief and external help."

JMP is an ecumenical organization uniting Armenians of three Christian denominations: Apostolic, Evangelical, and Catholic. In every country this cooperative arrangement is in place, and it has gained the trust and cooperation vitally needed to succeed. It has a horizontal organizational structure, which allows flexible programming to immediately react and respond to changing needs in each region. Amazingly,

in the USA, the administrative costs are very low with one full-time director, and one half-time assistant. Their office moved recently from Louisville, KY (home of PCUSA), to New York City. They can be reached at: Jinishian Memorial Program, 381 Park Avenue South, Suite 617, New York, NY 10016. Their website is: www.pcusa.org/jinishian

During his last years, when Edward Janjigian would share news and stories of vital needs of our suffering people, Mr. Jinishian would often break out in tears. Those tears of love, compassion, and passion for service have been rewarded with this amazing mission!

Acknowledgment: Beyond my own knowledge and sources, I have consulted JMP publications and annual reports. Most importantly I have used material found in the JMP book titled, "SERVING THE LEAST OF THESE, The 35th Anniversary of the Jinishian Memorial Program," by the Rev. Sylvia Casberg Guinn-Ammons, author.



Eliza Minasyan, the current Executive Director of Jinishian Memorial Program.



Training health care providers in Armenia.

JMP Supporting Families in Syria



Smiling back and feeling thankful to JMP after receiving their new beds.

OUR LIGHT, OUR HOPE



A Musical Program for Commemoration and Renewal

Our Light, Our Hope was the theme of a special musical program, organized by the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), which took place on Saturday, January 24 at the Majestic Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, CA.

The Concert, performed by the Lark Musical Society Choir and Orchestra of Glendale, CA under the direction of Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian, "can merely be described as *truly unique*, that elated our souls, delighted our appetites, soared our imagination, flew us to the annals of our national epic history, cried out our pain, paid worthy tribute to the victims of the Genocide and embodied our victorious response to the crime with an unrelenting passion to live, love, dream, imagine and create, in all glorifying God for His delivered promise not to forsake us," said Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA.

The Program combined several artistic mediums such as music, recitation, and dance - an array of selections that was presented in three Acts.

ACT I – FOREFATHERS – reflected the traditions and heroism of the Armenian people. Through songs, recitations and dances, it represented our nation as one of the most ancient civilizations that boasts significant periods of spiritual, artistic, military, economic, and intellectual achievements.

ACT II – CALAMITY – commemorated the collective tragedy that befell the Armenian nation in the early twentieth century. It was a tribute to our martyrs who perished for their ethnicity and Christian faith. But the resurrection was inevitable, just like the resurrection of Jesus, in Whom they trusted.

ACT III – HOMELAND – celebrated our triumphant survival which heralded a brighter future. Through artistic voices it was a recommitment to our Lord, our Motherland Armenia and our Culture.

The theme of the Program, "Our Light, Our Hope," was based on a patriotic song "Hayrenikis Hed" (With My Fatherland) written in 1915 by the famous poet Hovhannes Toumanian, (music by famous composer Alexander Harutiunian). Each act of the Program started with this moving song divided into three parts - the first two verses of the poem describing our past, the third verse describing the atrocities that begot our nation and the fourth verse looking with triumph to the future for a revived Homeland and an all-powerful Homeland.

Nothing was spared for a capacity filled crowd to take this emotional journey to the past, savor the present and yearn for a bright future, despite the experience of the crime of Genocide.

"Hats off to every participant in the presentation, from dreamers to planners, organizers, producers, creators and each participant, in making this Program a cultural miracle," said Mr. Khanjian. □

ՀԱՅՐԵՆԻՔԻՍ ՀԵՏ

Յովհաննես Թումանյան

WITH MY FATHERLAND

Hovhannes Toumanian

Վաղուց թեև իմ հայեացքը անյայտին է ու հեռուն
Ու իմ սիրտը իմ մըտքի հետ անհուններն է թափառում,
Բայց կարօտով ամեն անգամ երբ դառնում եմ դէպի քեզ՝
Մըղկըտում է սիրտըս անվերջ քո թառանչից աղեկեզ,
Ու գաղթական զաւակներիդ լուռ շարքերից ուժասպառ,
Ե՛ւ գիւղերից, ե՛ւ շէներից՝ տըխ՛ւր, դատարկ ու խաւար,
Ջարկուա՛ծ հայրենիք,
Ջըրկուա՛ծ հայրենիք:

Խըռմըռում են մըտքիս հանդէպ բանակները անհամար,
Տըրորում են քո երեսը, քո դաշտերը ծաղկավառ,
Ու ջարդարար վոհմակները աղաղակով վայրենի,
Աւարներով, աւերներով, խընջոյքներով արիւնի,
Որ դարձըրին քեզ մըշտական սեւ ու սուգի մի հովիտ,
Խեղճ ու լալկան քո երգերով, հայեացքներով անժըպիտ,
Ողբի՛ հայրենիք,
Որբի՛ հայրենիք:

Բայց հին ու նոր քո վերքերով կանգնած ես դու կենդանի,
Կանգնած խոհո՛ւն, խորհըրդաւոր ճամբին նորի ու հընի.
Հառաչանքով սըրտի խորքից խօսք ես խօսում Աստծու հետ
Ու խորհում ես խորին խորհուրդ տանջանքներում չարաղէտ,
Խորհում ես դու էն մեծ խօսքը, որ ՚տի ասես աշխարհին
Ու պիտ դառնաս էն երկիրը, ուր ձըգտում է մեր հոգին,
Յոյսի՛ հայրենիք,
Լոյսի՛ հայրենիք:

Ու պիտի գայ հանուր կեանքի արշալոյսը վառ հագած,
Հագա՛ր-հագար լուսապայծառ հոգիներով ճառագած,
Ու երկնահաս քո բարձունքի, Արարատի սուրբ լանջին,
Կենսաժըպիտ իր շողերը պիտի ժըպտան առաջին,
Ու պոետներ, որ չեն պըղծել իրենց շուրթերն անէծքով,
Պիտի գովեն քո նոր կեանքը նոր երգերով, նոր խօսքով,
Իմ նո՛ր հայրենիք,
Հըզօ՛ր հայրենիք...

Though for long my gaze has been on the unknown and the distant,
And my heart, along with my mind, traipses the infinite,
Yet, every time I turn to you with longing,
My heart is torn over your distressing wail,
Over the silent rows of your exhausted sons in exile,
Over your sad, vacant and dark villages and towns.
Oppressed homeland of mine,
Bereaved homeland of mine.

The cluster of countless armies pile up before my mind,
Which trampled your face and your flower-filled fields,
And murderous crowds with ferocious shout,
With plunder, with carnage, with feasts of blood,
That made you an eternal valley of darkness and sorrow,
With your wretched songs, your sullen gaze.
Homeland of laments,
Homeland of orphans.

Yet you stand alive with your wounds ancient and new,
You stand pensive at the cryptic crossroads of old and new,
You speak to God with sighs from the depths of your heart,
And think profound thoughts in times of rueful woe,
You ponder the great discourse you wish to deliver the world,
To become the land to which our souls aspire.
Homeland of hope,
Homeland of light.

But the ardently clad daybreak of habitual life will arrive,
Gleaming with thousands of radiant souls,
And upon your skyward summit, on the holy slopes of Ararat,
Its quickening early rays will radiate;
And poets, who have not defiled their lips with curse,
Will praise your life with new song and new word.
Revived homeland of mine,
All-mighty homeland of mine!

(Translated by Vatsche Barsoumian)

Zaven Khanjian Delivers Lecture on Hrant Dink: "The Man, The Mission, The Martyrdom"

By PETER KOU GASIAN, Esq.

As part of the Armenian Missionary Association of America's commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, AMAA Executive Director and CEO Zaven Khanjian delivered a memorial lecture about the life of Hrant Dink at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, New Jersey on January 31.

"Long before there was *Je suis Charlie* there was the slogan, *We are all Armenian*. *We are all Hrant Dink*," Mr. Khanjian told a large and attentive audience, who had braved adverse winter weather to attend the presentation. Mr. Khanjian and his wife Sona befriended Hrant Dink shortly before Dink's death, and the lecture included not just a witness to the historical record, but personal reminiscences as well. The lecture's point of departure was an impromptu address Hrant Dink delivered at the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC) in Hollywood, California, just months before Dink's death. In those remarks, Hrant Dink recalled his ties to the Armenian Evangelical movement, and in particular a youth camp in Tuzla, Turkey, that was dear to him.

Hrant Dink told the UACC audience that as a boy he lived as an orphan in the "children's nest" (Bolso Badanegan Doon) on the bottom floor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Gedik Pasa, Istanbul. The administrator of the orphanage, Hrant Guzelian, had a dream of creating a summer facility where children could enjoy the outdoors and continue their Bible studies. And so, Guzelian began the Tuzla camp.

But Dink recalled that in those early years, Tuzla was a far cry from our notion of a vacation camp. Tents were pitched, and at the age of eight, Hrant Dink along with a dozen other boys were taught construction skills, and began the hard work of building the facility that he would later describe as "heaven." It was, he said, "an untouched shore with fine sand and a piece of lake formed from the sea...a sprinkling of fig and olive trees, and thorny raspberry bushes along the sides of the ditches."

Not only would Dink work, learn, and play at the Tuzla camp, but he eventually met his wife Rakel there, when she was brought to the camp as a seven-year-old Kurdish Armenian. "We grew up together. We got married there. Our children were born there."

But eventually, the Turkish government placed camp director Hrant Guzelian under arrest, on an accusation that he was "raising Armenian militants," a notion that Dink ridiculed. "None of us was being raised as Armenian militants," he said. But Guzelian's arrest left the camp without a leader and the church without a pastor. And so, every Sunday, Hrant and Rakel Dink would keep the church open: a guard at the door, Hrant Dink preaching the Bible from the pulpit, and Rakel and their three children comprising the entire congregation.

Eventually, the Turkish government asserted that title to the Tuzla land had been granted to the Armenians in error, and evicted the children's camp altogether. To illustrate this portion of the lecture, Mr. Khanjian showed the audience the

documentary "Swallow's Nest" by Sehbal Senyrt and Nedim Hazar, in which Hrant Dink is seen walking through the neglected ruins of the Tuzla camp, the "heaven" of his childhood and early adulthood. As he walks, Dink recalls the injustice of the seizure of the land, and finds in that experience the roots of his passion for social justice for Turkey's minority communities.

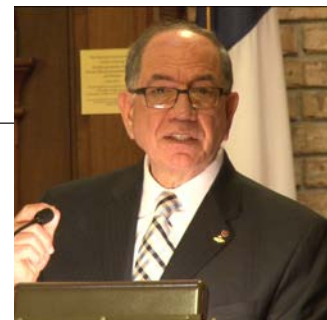
Because of his advocacy as a journalist, Hrant Dink was eventually charged by the Turkish state with a violation of the infamous Article 301, which criminalized offending Turkishness. He was convicted and given a suspended sentence, but Dink realized that, even if he was not sentenced to jail, the conviction made him a marked man. He remained in Turkey, he said, out of respect for the many thousands who supported him, but he said he lived like a pigeon, "obsessed just as much [by] what goes on my left, right, front, back. My head is just as mobile...and just fast enough to turn right away."

Dink continued, "I may see myself as frightened as a pigeon, but I know that in this country people do not touch pigeons. Pigeons can live in cities, even in crowds. A little scared perhaps, but free."

Tragically, Hrant Dink would not share that freedom. On January 19, 2007, a 17-year-old, Ogun Samast, shot Hrant Dink to death as he left his newspaper office. The subsequent investigation revealed that Samast was acting at the behest of members of the so-called "Deep State," ultra-nationalist forces within Turkey, believed to include officials in government and law enforcement. Those legal proceedings continue.

In recounting the life of Hrant Dink, Mr. Khanjian emphasized the values for which Dink lived and died. Those causes included the Christian faith he learned at Evangelical church, orphanage, and summer camp; and the inviolable civil rights of all minorities living in Turkey. Those causes also included a commitment to freedom of expression, a commitment so absolute that Dink vehemently opposed the enactment of a statute criminalizing Armenian Genocide denial in France.

Mr. Khanjian ended on an optimistic note, predicting that the forces opposed to the truth will eventually be defeated, and expressing his hope that goodwill - and recognition of the truth of the Armenian Genocide - will prevail. □



Merdinian School Commemorates the Centennial Throughout 2015

By HELEN HAIG

The Centennial Commemoration of the Genocide at any Armenian school, with our young children, carries with it very real responsibilities. At Merdinian, while the School acknowledges the terrible losses, it also recognizes the opportunity to teach about Christian values in addition to our rich Armenian heritage. Here are a few examples of what Merdinian is teaching as an Evangelical school.

The School acknowledges the strength God has given our first Christian nation. Faculty and staff explain that our people, in the midst of the hostile Turkish regime, kept their faith in Christ at all cost. Even though they knew the potential consequences, just like the earliest Christians in Rome, they understood the difference between life without Christ and the abundant life with Christ.

Merdinian explains that although many perished, God did not let this nation disappear off the face of the earth. The School teaches that the survivors sought God's guidance and re-built their communities worldwide through God's grace, and we are now getting stronger than ever. We cannot prevent adversity on this earth, but we live with confidence, knowing that God creates good according to His divine plan.

The School is conducting numerous programs and activities to engage the chil-

dren. For example, with one fun, collaborative, educational project, the children are assigned the task of finding a total of 100 facts about the Armenian Genocide in the 100 days countdown to the 100th Anniversary on April 24. Every Friday, seven facts are announced over the school intercom and posted on all bulletin boards around the School.

The School has designed tee shirts to commemorate the Genocide. The children wear the shirts every last week of the month and will do so throughout the month of April. The children are learning that we are not embarrassed and we do not back down in the face of tragedy. We instead face it, and stand in solidarity supporting each other and our community.

The children are participating in various programs including the Annual Young Author's Fair, as well as participating in an Art Fair. Children are interviewing Genocide survivors and writing essays that will be published. Various field trips are planned, and the children will participate



in a program at the Ararat Home to honor 11 residents who are celebrating their 100th birthdays this year.

This is just a small sample of what Merdinian is doing this Centennial year. The Centennial will be a part of numerous morning Chapel Services and School Assemblies as well. The School proclaims the power of the Resurrection of Christ, and that Armenians, with God's blessing, are rising above the difficult circumstances of our forebearers to continue to provide our unique and compelling witness for Christ. The School acknowledges and expresses gratitude to the AMAA for its ongoing support. □



Virginia Apelian Lectures on the Armenian Genocide at Kean University in New Jersey

Virginia Apelian, a member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ, has been invited to speak at a program commemorating the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide on April 23 at Kean University in Union, New Jersey.

The invitation to be the Keynote Speaker came from Janice Kropasky, Director of the Holocaust Resource Center and Diversity Council at Kean University. This special program will also include the Armenian Shushi Dance Ensemble, sponsored by the St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral of New York City, under the direction of Seta Kantardjian, and will include three beautiful dances in honor of the Centennial.

Following the program which will feature Armenian history and the Genocide, there will be an exhibit with over a dozen Armenian relics, paintings and photos on display. Mrs. Apelian's Musa Daghi Girl books will also be available for signing.

Mrs. Apelian has been the Keynote Speaker for a number of Armenian Genocide Commemorations in New Jersey including those at Rutgers University, Union County College and Raritan Valley Community College.



Haigazian University Holds Conference on Armenian Genocide Centennial

The Haigazian University and the Armenian Genocide 100th Anniversary Commemoration Committee of Lebanon held a series of lectures and seminars to commemorate the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

On January 31, 2015, under the leadership of Rev. Megrđitch Karagoezian, President of AEUNA, a Conference was organized, titled "Armenian Genocide Centennial and its Implications." The Conference was attended by ministers, members of the Lebanese Parliament, academics, scholars and religious leaders. The Keynote Speaker was scholar and historian, Professor Masoud Daher of the Lebanese University. His topic was "The Armenian Question in

the Age of Globalization: The Current Situation and its Prospects."

On February 1, 2015, a worship service was held at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut. Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian was the Keynote Speaker.

A total of eight topics were covered by scholars from Armenia, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. In addition, there was a presentation of two books written in Arabic, "100 years of Armenian Genocide: 100 Testimonials" by author Dr. Nora Arisian, and "Karapagh Dailies, Green and Black: No War No Peace" by author Tatul Hakobyan. The Conference presentations and sessions were moderated by Dr. Antranig Dakessian and Seta Khedashian. □



Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian in Conversation with Khatchig Mouradian (Former Editor of Armenian Weekly) at Ramapo College in NJ

On Tuesday, February 10, Haigazian University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian gave a lecture/question and answer session at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ, on "The Scourge of Genocide: A Century of Angst in the Middle East." The event was hosted by the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of the College.

The lecture/discussion, which was held between Dr. Haidostian and Khatchig Mouradian, Coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University, explored a century of violence from the Armenian Genocide to the rise of ISIS—and the angst it has created among the people of the Middle East.



Journey of the Crane A Centennial Concert, Commemorating the Armenian Genocide at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco

On Saturday, January 31st, the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, CA presented its Annual Concert in the Sanctuary of the Church to a capacity filled crowd.

The theme of this year's Concert was "Journey of the Crane" and was dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. The audience enjoyed an array of Armenian *sharagans*, classical and patriotic songs, instrumental compositions such as *Nor Dzaghig*, *Aysor Nor Or*, *Groung*, *Karoun a*, *Dzirani Dzar*, *Hayasdan*, *Giligia*, as well as a few non-Armenian classics, which were performed by the professional talented musicians and the church choir. As a conclusion and prayer, the last rendition was the Lord's Prayer *Hayr Mer*, with the beautiful musical composition of the famous Armenian Evangelical composer *Armiss*.

The Concert, as described by the Pastor of the Church and the Musical Director Rev. Nerses Balabanian, was indeed a unique journey, just like the *Groung* (the crane), that flies in freedom, migrates and goes over the world, and comes back home. *Badveli* Balabanian took the audience on a journey where they cried, smiled and celebrated the life and creativity that God has granted us.



Special thanks to all participating musicians, Tatev Amiryan (Piano), Alexandra Hawley (Flute), Chinar Merjanian (Organ), Jason Park (Trumpet), Seda Kizirian (Soprano), Martin Ulikhanyan (Clarinet), Helene Zindarsian (Soprano) and Sevan Balabanian (Piano accompaniment), for using their artistic talents for the glory of God and for the advancement of our Armenian culture. □

ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE 100

1915-2015 100th Year of Remembrance

The National Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial

On May 7, 8 and 9, 2015 thousands will gather in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. "While remembering those who were lost, we will also give thanks for the creation of a new Armenia and for thriving Armenian communities around the world. Grateful for the opportunities our ancestors found on arrival in this country, we are also deeply indebted to those

institutions and individuals who helped the survivors during the Genocide. In the Nation's Capital this May, we will thank those who have helped to spread awareness of the Armenian Genocide, and those who work tirelessly to prevent Genocide elsewhere in the world." *The National Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial*

Five major events will carry these themes Forward:

Ecumenical Service: National Cathedral – May 7 at 7:00 p.m. (Free but ticketed. Please send reservations to info@armeniangenocidecentennial.org)

Concert: Music Center at Strathmore – May 8 at 8:00 p.m. (Tickets from box office: www.strathmore.org)

Divine Liturgy: Shrine of the Immaculate Conception – May 9 at 10 a.m. (Entry without ticket or charge)

Reception and Banquet: Marriott Marquis Hotel – May 9 at 6 p.m. (\$100 per person. For reservations E-mail: info@armeniangenocidecentennial.org)

Exhibitions and Cultural Events at the Marriott Hotel – May 7 – 9 (Free and open to the public at the Marriott Marquis and around Washington, D.C.)

There will be buses provided taking guests between the Marriott and the Event venues at a reasonable charge.

For more information you may visit www.armeniangenocidecentennial.org or E-mail: info@armeniangenocidecentennial.org

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian Lectures on the Presbyterian Church (USA) Recognition of the Armenian Genocide

Sponsored by the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church, Downey, CA

Presbyterian Church (USA) resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide on June 20, 2014 may be considered a milestone among numerous other efforts meant to raise awareness of the 1915 Genocide during this year's Centennial remembrances. Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Illinois, who was instrumental, together with Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni, in passing the Genocide Resolution, was invited by Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA on February 21-22, 2015, to present two lectures to the Armenian community of Southern California and explain the manner in which this Resolution was passed and what were its implications.

On Saturday, February 21st, the first lecture entitled **Presbyterian Church (USA) Resolution on the Armenian Genocide and its Implications** took place at C&E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School. Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian opened the meeting with the invocation, followed by Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni introducing Rev. Dr. Chakoian and Rev. Dr. Jack Hodges, who represented the Jinishian Memorial Program. Rev. Dr. Hodges delivered a brief power point presentation on the Jinishian Memorial Program that had belonged to the Presbyterian Church (USA) for more than five decades, and had now played an important role in initiating this Resolution. Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian conveyed the greetings and support of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.

Rev. Dr. Chakoian spoke about the Presbyterian Church (USA) Genocide Resolution that intends to familiarize the Church's 1.8 million members in 11,000 parishes around the USA about the atrocities leveled against the Armenians by the Ottoman Turks during World War I. The Resolution calls on Presbyterian member churches to commemorate the Armenian Genocide each year on the Sunday closest to April 24th to raise awareness of the Armenian Genocide and prevent future atrocities against humanity. The meeting was concluded with a period of questions and answers.



L to R: Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Dr. Arthur Salibian and Rev. Dr. Vartkes M. Kassouni.

On Sunday, February 22nd, Rev. Dr. Chakoian was the guest preacher for the morning service at Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey. This was followed by her lecture titled **The PC (USA) Resolution: A Collaborative Effort**. In her remarks, Rev. Dr. Chakoian stressed the collaborative efforts of The Rev. Fr. Garabed Kotchakian, Pastor of St. John's Armenian Apostolic Church of Detroit, MI, Armenian and non-Armenian Clergy representing local presbyteries, and General Assembly commissioners, that led to the adoption of the Resolution by the General Assembly on the 20th of June, 2014. Rev. Dr. Chakoian concluded her talk by stressing the need for collaboration and reconciliation in all matters, so as to reflect our identity, character, and our collective mission in Christ toward building God's Kingdom and living in His truth. □



Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian



Rev. Dr. Jack Hodges



Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

AMAA and AEUNA Participate in the All Armenia Fund Telethon and Banquet Honoring Mr. & Mrs. Gerald & Patricia Turpanjian

Once again, the Armenia Fund registered a great success in the spirit of solidarity to bring the Homeland and the Diaspora together to demonstrate support for each other and to raise funds to help rebuild the infrastructure of the Motherland.

The two major events organized by the Armenia Fund were the Armenia Telethon held on Thanksgiving Day November 27, and the Annual Banquet held at the Glendale Hilton Hotel on November 23, 2014.

Mr. Anto Baghdassarian, Chair of the Committee, demonstrated his leadership in organizing these events. Clergy from all denominations, dignitaries and elected government officials all came to show solidarity. The President of Karabagh, Bako Sahakyan, his Eminence Archbishop Barkev Martirosyan, Primate of the Diocese of Artsakh, and the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States, Mr. Tigran Sargsyan attended the events. This year's honorees were philanthropists Mr. & Mrs. Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian. Dr. Mihran Agabian introduced the honorees for the evening, who were presented with the Order of Mesrob Mashdorts by President Bako Sahakyan.

Both AMAA and AEUNA representatives participated in these events and financially supported the fundraising event for the completion of the Vardenis-Martakert Highway.

The AMAA and the AEUNA congratulate the All Armenia Fund for its successful endeavors and the Turpanjians for their dedication, love and support for the Armenian people, and pray that God will continue to bless our Homeland with peace and prosperity. ☐



Mr. & Mrs. Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian being presented with the Order of Mesrob Mashdorts Award.



L to R: Maureen McNulty, Gary Turpanjian, Deanna Nazarian, Gerald Turpanjian, Lori Muncherian, Jack Muncherian, Paul Turpanjian, Bennette Turpanjian.



L to R: George and Suzie Phillips, Ambassador Tigran Sargsyan, President Bako Sahakyan, Levon Filian and Dr. Mihran and Elizabeth Agabian.



L to R: Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Pastor Joe Garabedian, Harold Demirjian, Levon Filian, Dr. Vahram Shemmassian, Dr. Hasmig and Arsene Baran.

Meet Our Veteran Pastors:

The Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji

By Rev. L. NISHAN BAKALIAN

The Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji was born in 1929, in Aleppo, Syria. He grew up in the Syriac Evangelical Church within the Armenian Evangelical Union. He attended the one-room school of the church, until the Rev. Edward Tovmassian, his pastor and hero, enrolled him in the fourth grade of the elementary section of Aleppo College, where he continued through high school and his freshman year in college. The Rev. Dikran Antreassian helped him enroll in the Seminary in Beirut in 1948. He graduated in 1953, with a B.A. from the American University of Beirut and a Diploma in Theology from the Near East School of Theology (NEST).

There he met his future wife, Marie Bedikian, an elementary school teacher who wanted to pursue her career in Christian Education. They were married in 1953 and headed to Badveli Doghramji's first parish in Hassakeh, Syria, where ISIS is in control today. He preached in Arabic to a congregation of mostly Arabic-, but also Armenian-, Aramaic-, Kurdish-, and Russian-speaking people. He also was principal of the elementary school and taught English at the public high schools because English teachers were not available. Their first son, Karl, was born there in 1954. Badveli Doghramji was ordained by the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (Arab Presbyterian).

The following year, Rev. Dr. Doghramji joined the faculty of Aleppo College as a teacher of religion and philosophy. Paul, their second son, was born in 1957. In 1959, Rev. Dr. Doghramji was elected as the first national President of Aleppo College. He was given a year's leave for graduate study at Harvard University Divinity School, where he studied under such luminaries as Paul Tillich. He received a Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree in 1961.

From 1961 to 1966, he served Aleppo College as President and professor of religion. He was also the interim pastor of the National (Arab) Evangelical Church in Aleppo. Their third son, James, was born there in 1963. Rev. Dr. Doghramji resigned his position in 1966 to continue his doctoral studies in a joint program between Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary. His doctoral dissertation was "Christian Ethics in the Muslim Context." He was awarded a Ph.D. degree, magna cum laude, in 1970.

During his last year at Princeton, he served the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church (AMCC) in Havertown, PA, as part-time interim pastor. He declined the invitation of the church to be their permanent pastor due to his commitment to

teach at NEST as professor of theology. But after two semesters of teaching there in Beirut in 1969-70, he and his family moved to Havertown, where he resumed the ministry of the church on a full-time basis.

After serving the church for nine years he resigned in 1979 to join the staff of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ as an Assistant to the Conference Minister. In 1985, he became the President and Minister of the Conference. Having served a full term of six years, he retired in 1991. During his tenure in Collegeville, PA, he received the Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree from Ursinus College in 1986.

His retirement was interrupted several times: first, in 1993 as interim pastor of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA; next as interim (1993-94) and then senior pastor (1994-96) of the United Armenian Congregational Church in Hollywood, CA; twice as interim pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York (2000-03 and 2006-12); and as Executive Director, Armenian Missionary Association of America in 2004.

Rev. Dr. Doghramji was a Trustee and Adjunct Professor of Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary. He served the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America as the first Executive Secretary (1979-84), Moderator (1984-86), and Chairman of the Theological Commission (from 1996). He has been widely known as a theologian, Biblical scholar, preacher and teacher. He is the author of the soon-to-be-released book on the Apostles' Creed, **Exploring Our Faith** (published jointly by the AMAA and the AMCC), as well as the 2004 collection of reflections, **In Other Words**, (published by the Armenian Evangelical Church of NY and AMAA), both of which are available through the AMAA office. He and his wife continue to reside in Havertown, PA, and they have seven grandchildren. Sons Karl, Paul and James are practicing physicians in the Philadelphia area. □



I Too Have A Dream!

Ephesians 1:10, 4:13-16

By REV. PETER B. DOGHARAMJI, Ph.D.

Here we are again! We assemble in various locations year after year to commemorate the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Most of us are of Armenian descent. We come together and we hear emotional and eloquent speeches. We speak to each other: Armenian to Armenian.

I wonder what it would be like if I were asked to speak to the descendants of the perpetrators of the Genocide. It is not likely that that will take place, at least not in my lifetime. Yet, I have a dream! I dream of the day when it will be possible for an Armenian to address a Turkish crowd. Then I ask myself: as a minister of the Gospel and as an Armenian, what will be my message to my Turkish audience? What will I tell them?

First, I will tell them about God's secret plan which has been revealed in Christ: "To unite all things in heaven and on earth!" The plan is one of **reconciliation**, and that includes the Armenian and the Turk. (Ephesians 1:10)

Second, I will speak about maturity. Maturity denotes acceptance of responsibility, including accountability for mistakes and sins. Children and immature people always deny their sins. So did Adam and Eve as newly created "children." Only mature people accept their sins and do something to rectify them. Reconciliation involves a mature and courageous attitude toward the Genocide.

My dream is that the day will come when we shall cease from enumerating the sins of the Ottoman Turks and their progeny. On that day, they themselves will acknowledge them. On that day we shall extend our right hand to clasp theirs. On that day God's plan will be fulfilled, and we shall no longer be immature children, bickering, quarreling, blaming, and nursing hatred; "but speaking the truth with love," we shall be grown ups, as God's children and members of God's household.

I, too, have a dream!

The AEUNA Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meet at the AEUNA Offices

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) convened for their second meeting on January 22-24 at the AEUNA offices in Glendale, CA. Along with the reports of the AEUNA officers, staff, standing committees and affiliated organizations, the members addressed issues pertaining to the organization, life and ministry of the Union, AEUNA churches, youth and camps.

Some of the highlights of the meeting were the Centennial Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, visioning for the future, the 2016 Biennial Convention (June 23-26, Chicago, IL), AEUNA in-care students, search for AEUNA Minister to the Union and East Coast Youth Minister, publications (Forum, Highlights) and Joint Home Mission with the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

These meetings were planned to coincide with the Centennial Commemoration Concert, organized by the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of the AEUNA and AMAA which was held on Saturday, January 24 at the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, CA.

The leadership of AEUNA solicits and appreciates the prayers of its church members, as they trust God in the implementation and execution of the decisions made at these meetings.



AMAA/Haigazian University Friendship Dinner

Hosted by Serge and Anita Buchakjian

By **GILDA BUCHAKJIAN (KUPELIAN)**

The Seasons Banquet Hall in Washington Township, NJ, was abuzz with guests at the AMAA/Haigazian Friendship Dinner, graciously hosted by Serge and Anita Buchakjian on February 7, 2015. Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Board members from near and far, Haigazian University (HU) Trustees, alumni, and friends were delighted to help celebrate the only Armenian University in the Diaspora in high spirits, camaraderie, and philanthropy.

In his welcome address and words of thanks to the attendees, Serge Buchakjian, a member of the Haigazian Board of Trustees, offered a few heartfelt words about his first *alma mater* on the occasion of its 60th anniversary this year. How fortuitous that Haigazian University was the launching pad for his education and career in the aerospace industry, only two decades after the production of the first rocket ever in the Mideast led by Manoug Manougian and his Haigazian University team. Mr. Buchakjian underscored the fact that in addition to preserving the Armenian heritage, Haigazian University "impacts lives beyond just education. It teaches tolerance and fosters a culture of understanding through the open exchange of ideas across ethnic and religious backgrounds." He was proud to call Haigazian University "a jewel of a university" hoping that it will prosper well over its 60th anniversary.

Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ, was invited to say grace, with an inspirational invocation.

The Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, Zaven Khanjian was pleased to ascertain that education was the legacy contributed by the Armenian Evangelical Community to the nation and our people. Mr. Khanjian spoke of the pioneering work in creating "a colossal network of educational institutions from kindergartens to elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education - colleges and schools of theology. We have pioneered in the education of women, introduced music and physical education and raised the level of literacy, education, enlightenment and culture within our people." The Genocide "severed the trunk of our existence. It wiped out innumerable dreams and the unlimited potential of a nation." Still, continued Mr. Khanjian "out of the ashes the Phoenix rose again, the AMAA was born in 1918. Education took precedence. Schools were built again and spread wherever our remnants took refuge. Visionaries were active again and so in collaboration with the AMAA, Haigazian was born." Mr. Khanjian concluded his remarks by praising the spirit of philanthropy that has supported the efforts of all those who stood steadfast behind this institution.

As a token of appreciation, Mr. Khanjian presented the hosts, Serge and Anita Buchakjian, whose wedding anniversary coincided



on that day, a sculptural artifact of the ark on Mt. Ararat, by Michael Aram, symbolizing overcoming adversity and reaching new heights.

The dynamic President of Haigazian University, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian thanked the hosts, the AMAA, and its Board members for their support. Rev. Dr. Haidostian pointed out that "2015 coincides with the 60th anniversary of Haigazian University and that many

events and celebrations will be planned in Beirut, Dubai, and the USA. But more meaningfully, our institution is named after a famous educator, Armenag Haigazian, who fell victim to the Genocide, and we are honoring and paying homage to his legacy as well."

"How can one tell whether Haigazian University is still true to its mission and successful at that?" was President Haidostian's leading question. "Our graduates are doing very well in graduate programs around the globe; they are successful in the job market; our financial aid office is one of the most central functions at HU, and the support of the Syrian Armenian students was yet another testimony about that. Our community outreach, research and publication efforts are bearing fruit and we are regularly organizing conferences and educational events. We are still preparing leaders for the community, and acting as bridge-builders among all parties. What will sustain these efforts is the need for ongoing and generous support of everyone in more significant ways than before."

Joyce Philibosian Stein, staunch supporter of Haigazian University for decades, following in her parents Stephen and Sirpuhi Philibosian's footsteps, was happy to herald the call for continued philanthropic efforts to help sustain the level of excellence achieved by Haigazian University, over the years, for its students. Tina Segel, the apple that has not fallen far from the tree, continues her commitment for this institution of higher learning, that has remained a solid beacon of erudition despite years of trials and tribulations. Tina's journey with HU began when she overheard her mother and uncle repeatedly use the words AMAA and Haigazian in their household. That piqued her interest and after visiting the University with her parents, embarked on her philanthropic work following in her parents Joseph and Joyce's footsteps.

Friends and alumni in good spirits including AMAA President and HU Trustees Chair, Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian, Haigazian University Board members Gary Phillips and his wife Arsine, Dr. Hasmig Baran and her husband Arsene, Harry Najarian and his wife Cheryl, Robert Kurkjian, AMAA Past President Andy Torigian, West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian, Dr. Raffi and Shoghag Hovanessian, Khoren and Seta Nalbandian, Maurice and Berjouhi Gulesserian and many more enjoyed a cheerful evening replete with "joyful noise," good food, music and dancing, and all for a good cause. After all, as Mr. Buchakjian so aptly put it "heat warms the body, but friendship warms the heart." □



AMAA Eurasia Representative Visits Churches in Russia, Abkhazia and Georgia

Rev. René Léonian, AMAA Eurasia Representative, on behalf of The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and The Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC), recently visited the Armenian Evangelical churches in Russia (Moscow and Sochi), in Abkhazia and in Georgia (Tbilisi and Akhalkalak). The purpose of his trip was to meet with the local church pastors and to assess their needs, both spiritual and financial.

We would like to share with our readers the ministries we have in these countries and ask you to fervently pray for these ministries to grow and bring glory to God. We also ask you to financially support our ministries in these countries.

In **Moscow**, the church holds Bible studies on Saturdays and worship services on Sundays in a rented small sanctuary. They have a youth group and plan weekend retreats and house visits all in the spirit of unity and Christian fellowship. There are over one million Armenians in Moscow.

The church in **Sochi** has been holding worship services for 20 years. The members meet in a rented church on a regular basis to hold worship services, youth group activities, Sunday School and Bible studies for various groups. There are about 300,000 Armenians in the Sochi region.

The Church in **Abkhazia** has been struggling, and they need our prayers. The overall population of Abkhazia is 240,000 of which 60,000 are Armenians.

The Church in **Tbilisi** holds worship services on Sundays, after which they hold Sunday School classes, Armenian language classes and Bible studies. There are more than 300,000 Armenians living in Georgia.

In **Akhalkalak**, the church building (2 floors) belongs to the AMAA. They hold their weekly worship services on Saturdays at 11 am. They lead a Child Sponsorship Program.

In **Goumbourdou**, the Church Service and Sunday School sessions are held in the pastor's garage. They also hold a Bible Study Session on Wednesday mornings.

In **Soulda**, the Church Service is held in a rented house on Thursdays at 1 pm. They also have a Sunday School.

In **Akhazke**, the Church Service is held on Saturdays at 12 pm in a house which belongs to a Georgian Baptist church. They also have a small Sunday School.

There are 72 villages in the Akhalkalak Region, 65 of them are all Armenians (around 80,000 Armenians). There are also several thousand Armenians in Akhazke.

Let's continue to pray for our churches in Eurasia, especially in Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia and encourage the churches to remain steadfast to keep on the right track their faith and Armenian heritage. □



The Congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sochi, Russia.



The Youth of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow, Russia.



Some of the members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Goumbourdou.



L to R: Rev. René Léonian, Rev. Mihran Torossian, Pastor of Abkhazia Church, and Rev. Sassoun Karakhanian, Pastor of Sochi Church.



Worship Service at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Tbilisi, Georgia.



Children sing at the Worship Service of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sochi.



Bible Study Group of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Akhalkalak, Georgia.

A Visit with Billy Graham Evangelical Association and Samaritan's Purse

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), Billy Graham Evangelical Association (BGEA) and the Samaritan's Purse (SP) are Christian organizations that preach and teach the Gospel to win souls for Christ and to give a glass of cold water to the needy in His Name.

The cooperative efforts between these organizations began with the relationship Joe and Joyce Stein had developed with the Graham ministries and the Samaritan's Purse decades ago. A stronger tie was developed when Dr. Melvin and Mrs. Sylvia Cheatham visited Armenia in 2012 accompanied by the Steins.

Since 1997, the Samaritan's Purse has financially supported renovation projects of schools and churches in Armenia.

The AMAA has worked closely with these organizations and contributed to their ministries as well. Most recently, the AMAA contributed funds for Ebola relief.

From December 8-11, the Steins and Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, visited the BGEA Headquarters in Charlotte, NC and SP Headquarters in Boone, NC. The visitations were made possible by Dr. Cheatham who serves on both Boards.

Each organization welcomed us with warmth, and demonstrated great enthusiasm to continue to work together. Evangelism, discipleship training, construction projects, humanitarian aid, health and medical ministries were discussed with respective leaders of the organizations. We met with David Yerry, Ken Barun, Roy Graham, Jane Austin Graham, Viktor Hamm, Gary Cobb, Wayne Atcheson, Tom Phillips, Edward Densham, Chris Swanson, Matt Foster representing Randy Fox and others.

We spent quality time with each of the members in fellowship, friendship, discussion of various projects; and we committed all our plans to God in Prayer.

These meetings and our time in prayer, we believe, will bear fruit and God will bless our ministries as we continue to cooperate with these organizations in the coming months and years. □



Samaritan's Purse volunteers in action, Boone, NC.



L to R: Rev. Dr. Melvin Cheatham and David Yerry.



L to R: Roy Graham, Joyce and Joe Stein and Dr. Tom Phillips.



L to R: Levon Filian, Jane Austin Graham, Joyce Stein, David Yerry and Joe Stein.



L to R: Levon Filian, Dr. Viktor Hamm and Joyce and Joe Stein.

VISITATIONS

Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, visited churches on the East Coast, participated in their worship services and brought the greetings of the AMAA.



Zaven Khanjian at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal - Laval, QC, Canada.



Zaven Khanjian with Rev. Haig Kherlopian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

Southern California area Armenian Evangelical Ministers visit His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of AMAA Board and Levon Filian visit with Dr. Richard Kasper.



L to R: Pastor Joseph Garabedian, Rev. Apraham Chaparian, Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, Fr. Boghos Tinkjian, Arch. Moushegh Mardirossian, Rev. Joseph Matossian, Rev. Dikran Shanlian, Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian and Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian.



L to R: Dr. Richard Kasper, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Joyce Abdulian.

AMAA West Coast Executive Director visits with the Association's friends and donors on the East and West Coasts.



Dr. Avedis and Laura Hadidian Khachadurian.



Dr. Norair and Martha Sarian.



Standing L to R: Doris and Arda Melkonian. Seated L to R: Effie Eskijian, Levon Filian, Rosig Baroutjian, Rev. John Melkonian, Jeanette Melkonian, Mardiros Baroutjian, Dr. Liliana Filian and Martin Eskijian.

AMAA West Coast Executive Director participated in the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.



L to R: Levon Filian, Geordon Rendle, International President of Youth for Christ, and Rev. Berdj Djambazian.



L to R: Levon Filian, Congresswoman Janice Hahn and Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of ANCA.

Save the Date

Commemorating
Vartan Jinishian's
145th Birthday



Presentation and Celebration of the
Jinishian Memorial Program

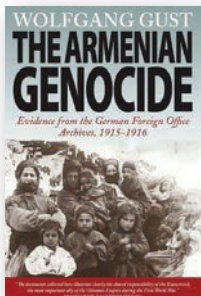
Dinner and Program

Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 5 pm

Bel Air Presbyterian Church
16621 Mulholland Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90077

For more Information you may contact
Rev. Dr. Jack Hodges
at 503.635.8625 or
E-mail: jhodges@bcdemail.com

Featured Books from AMAA's Book Store Department



The Armenian Genocide

Evidence from the German Foreign Office Archives, 1915-1916
Compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust

In close to 800 pages the book contains hundreds of telegrams, letters and reports from German consular officials in the Ottoman Empire to the Foreign Office in Berlin

which describe in graphic and shocking detail the unfolding Genocide of the Armenians.

Item # 349 - Price: \$75.00

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.

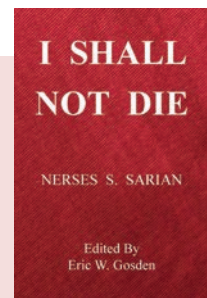
I Shall Not Die

A Tribute to the Faithfulness of God
By Rev. Nerses Sarian
Edited by Eric W. Gosden

The personal accounts of Rev. Sarian's survival story during the Armenian Genocide and a record of the miracles of grace that he has experienced. As a picture of the Church in persecution, this story has the great virtue of being a firsthand account from one who was directly involved.

Item # 347 - Price: \$12.00

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.



Aleppo First Station

Childhood memories of a happy teenager in Aleppo, Syria (in Armenian).
By Zaven Khanjian

Հալեպ Առաջին Կայարան - Մանկություն ունեցող տղու մը յուշերը - հեղինակ՝ Զաւեն Խանճեան
 The story of a young boy who lived and tremendously enjoyed his childhood in

HALEB. It shares the vibrant upbringing, happy and amazing childhood stories, and beautiful memories of growing up.

Item # 351 - Price: \$30.00

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.

Is This House Yours or Mine?

Pages from the Diary of the Author's pilgrimage to Western Armenia, Cilicia and Constantinople (in Armenian).

By Zaven Khanjian

Այս Տունը Քո՞ւկը է Թէ Իմս - հեղինակ՝ Զաւեն Խանճեան: Ուխտագնացութիւն դէպի Արեւմտեան Հայաստան, Կիլիկիա եւ Կոստանդնուպոլիս - Հեղինակին Օրագրութեան էջերէն առնուած:

Item # 352- Price: \$35.00

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.



Book Order Form

Please forward Book(s) {List by catalogue No.(s)}

(s) _____ For a total of \$ _____ plus \$ _____ for postage and handling.

In the U.S. add US\$5.00 for first copy and US\$2.00 for each additional book. For Canada and international orders, please call or e-mail AMAA for shipping and handling charges before you send in your order - (order books by catalogue numbers).

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

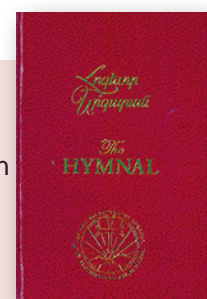
Make checks payable to AMAA in U.S. dollars and mail to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To purchase with a credit/debit card, please call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607 or visit our website www.amaa.org

The Hymnal

The Hymnal (Hokevor Yerkaran), published by the Armenian Heritage Committee of Royal Oak, Michigan, (August 2014), represents the culmination of 22 years of tireless and selfless labor by its two editors, the brother-sister team of Hrant Agbabian and Lucina Agbabian Hubbard. Lifelong members of the Armenian Evangelical Community and the children of Rev. Siragan Agbabian, each brought their significant musical talents to bear on a task that neither anticipated would last the better part of a quarter century. Hrant was for decades choir conductor at the largest Armenian Evangelical Church in the US; Lucina has for many years been teaching Armenian music history at USC. Working with them were a number of distinguished clergy and laymen from both within and without the Evangelical tradition.

Item # 353 - Price: \$30.00

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.



For a complete listing of our bookstore items please contact AMAA Book Store: 201.265.2607, or visit www.amaa.org

SYRIA UPDATE

Our Syrian Armenian Kin *Need* Your Support

In these trying times in Syria, the AMAA continues to provide essential and God-pleasing services to our Syrian Armenian kin in Syria, especially to our communities in Aleppo and Kessab, and the Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Armenia. Your Christian love and compassion and generous donation has helped sustain the lives of so many desperate and hapless families, as Syria continues to submerge deeper into an unprecedented chaos facing an uncertain future. There is the daily fear of missile attacks showering over the residential neighborhoods, fear of armed terrorists groups overrunning the streets and homes, poverty, anxiety toward the future, economic whirlpool, mental disorders, lack of water and electrical power, the pain and suffering of physically losing family members and relatives to kidnapping or acts of war, and so much more.

To date the AMAA has raised over \$800,000. However more financial aid is needed to continue our relief efforts to reach out and inject hope and anchor the will of the people to survive and sustain!



We have the calling and duty to reach out to our Syrian Armenian kin in Syria as well as in neighboring countries where they have found refuge. Let us join hands and sustain them. Let us also pray that God will end the violence and bring this conflict to a peaceful resolution.

Your gift makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support.



Some of the Syrian Armenian University students who recently received financial aid from the AMAA.

Did You Know?

- There is still a severe lack of food, shelter, and medical care
- Our schools are under tremendous pressure and stress
- Neighborhoods with no heat or electricity
- Our students are studying with blankets and candles

So far, your gifts have provided:

- Shelter for homeless families
- Water, Food and Nutrition
- Medical Assistance
- School Tuition
- Salaries for Schoolteachers

YES, I would like to reach out and help our Syrian

Armenian kin. Enclosed please find my donation in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

To make a donation you can send in your tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA for Syria Relief and mail to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please visit AMAA's website at amaa.org or call AMAA at 201.265.2607. Thank you for your support!



STITCHED WITH LOVE PROGRAM

Provides Hats, Blankets and Infant Clothing to Expectant Teacher-Mothers of Malatya-Sebastya District

With the support provided from individuals, community organizations and church groups, AMAA's **Stitched with Love** Program, founded in late 2013, provides knitted or crocheted hats and baby blankets to newborns in maternity hospitals throughout Armenia. A lady from North Carolina who recently participated in this Program writes: "My maternal grandmother was the sole survivor in her family of the Genocide. It is through her and my mother that I was passed the talent of sewing and handwork. I am grateful to God and to them for this gift and try to use that gift in service to others. Thanks for your work in making this dream of helping Armenian babies and children a reality."

During this Christmas and New Year season, with the cooperation of the Head of the Malatya-Sebastya Administrative District of Yerevan, a special event was organized at AMAA's Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center for all expectant teacher-mothers in the neighborhood. They were welcomed

by the School Principal Melanya Geghamyan, AMAA Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian and the head of the Education Department of Malatya-Sebastya District. Each expectant teacher-mother received hats, blankets and other clothing from **Stitched with Love** for their soon to be born babies. The event was highlighted in the Malatya-Sebastya local press.

It is the hope of the women of the **Stitched with Love** program, that all the newborn babies in Armenia will soon go home with their mothers, swaddled in a blanket and a hat made by caring individuals like you!

For more information on how to participate and help in this effort, please contact the AMAA office at 201-265-2607, or visit www.amaa.org and click on the **Stitched with Love** tab. Donations to cover the cost of yarn, transportation and freight can be mailed to the AMAA at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a donation by credit card, you may call the AMAA office or visit AMAA's website at www.amaa.org. □

AMAA Christmas Programs in Armenia and Karabagh



Christmas in Sisian, Armenia.



Christmas in Stepanavan, Armenia.



Christmas in Maralik, Armenia.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Evangelical Churches of Armenia (ECA), continue their Christian ministry by planning and organizing Christmas programs in several towns and villages in Armenia and Karabagh.

This year, over 7,200 children received AMAA Christmas Joy Packages that contained a variety of gifts and messages from the Gospel about God's Love revealed in sending His only begotten Son for the salvation of His People.

Thousands of children participated in a variety of Christmas programs that were presented in the spirit of love and

joy, in creative, colorful, instructive and educational ways proclaiming the meaning of Christmas. This year, special efforts were made to reach out to the children and parents of remote bordering villages to bring them hope. The children participated in the events by singing, dancing and welcoming Santa Claus. The Hayasa Theatrical Group, under the leadership of Nune Abrahamyan, organized a special Christmas program which was staged on four separate occasions in the AMAA Yerevan Center. Over 1,500 children and parents attended these events and received Christmas Joy Packages. This year's Christmas packages were prepared by American

Benefactors under the leadership of Al Chipilian who had recently visited Armenia and witnessed the poverty in different regions in Armenia.

The AMAA thanks all the donors and participants who have made it possible to bring hope and joy to our Armenian children every year. □



Christmas in Vanadzor, Armenia.



Christmas Program in Vardenis, Armenia.



The Hayasa Theatrical Group performs a Christmas drama in Yerevan, Armenia.

The Armenian Missionary Association of Canada Celebrates 30 Years of Service

The Armenian Missionary Association of Canada (AMAC) was established on March 17, 1984, by the four active Armenian Evangelical Churches in Canada, Toronto, Montreal First, Laval and Cambridge, and their representatives. The AMAA President, Dr. George Bezirgianian, the Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian and the Field Director, Rev. Movses Janbazian were also present at the first meeting as advisors.

The Armenian Missionary Association of Canada celebrated its 30th anniversary with a musical program, featuring Hampig Djabourian and his Chamber Orchestra on Sunday, November 30, 2014, in Montreal. Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, was present at the event and on Saturday, December 6, 2014, in Toronto, where Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, AMAA Field Director, represented our parent organization, the AMAA.

The AMAC Board of Directors had resolved to honor the Living Founding Members of the Association during the 30th Anniversary celebrations in Montreal and Toronto. Mr. Khanjian, before presenting the citations to the Living Founding Members, reminded us of the great humanitarian work done by the Near East Relief Society to the remnants of the Armenian nation after the Genocide. "Today," he said "our compatriots are in dire situations in Syria, Iraq, Armenia and Karabagh. It is our duty to extend a helping hand and instill hope in them." He then presented the citations to Rev. Jirair Bizdikian, Dr. George Ajemian, Mr. Souren Hadjian, Mr. Hagop Basmadjian and Mr. Sarkis Hanenian. In Toronto, Rev. Melkonian praised God for the 30 years of the Association and thanked all who had been instrumental in the growth of AMAC and then presented the citations to Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian, Mr. Antibas Loussararian and Mr. Mihran Jizmejjan. Mr. Puzant Danayan and Mr. Hakop Kahkajian not being present, the citations were given to Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian of Cambridge Church to deliver. He then invited Mr. Mihran Jizmejjan to remain and receive an engraved crystal prize with the following inscription: "30th Anniversary of AMAC, to Mihran Jizmejjan, for outstanding and dedicated service to the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada." Presented by the AMAA, Dec. 6, 2014.

The musical event, apart from being a celebration, was also a fund-raiser for the renovation and repair of windows for the School # 77 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Both events in Montreal and Toronto were well organized and successful. The net income was over \$22,000 for our projects in Armenia, Karabagh and the Diaspora. After the program, many of the happy and satisfied guests gathered in the fellowship halls of our churches, where tasty finger foods were served and the 30th Anniversary cake cutting ceremonies were held. □



Hampig Djabourian and his Chamber Orchestra.



L to R: Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian, Andy Loussararian, Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Field Director AMAA, Mihran Jizmejjan, President AMAC, Father Gomidas Panossian.



L to R: Rev. Georges Dabbo, Hagop Basmadjian, Sarkis Hanenian, Rev. Jirair Bizdikian (hidden in the back), Rev. Avedis Zarifian, Dr. George Ajemian, Souren Hadjian, Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, Rev. Dr. Manuel Jinbashian and Mihran Jizmejjan, President AMAC.

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Գործադիր Տնօրէն Զաւէն Խանճեանի Պատգամը Նոյեմբեր 30-ին Մոնթրէալի մէջ տեղի ունեցած Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան 30-Ամեակի Տօնակատարութեան

Այս երեկոյ երբ հաւաքուած ենք այստեղ, մեր սրտերը ջերմացնող հանդիսութեան մը առիթով, ուրախութեամբ եւ արդար պարծանքով ոգեկոչելու Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան երեսունամեակը, իմ միտքս կ'ընկղմի պատմութեան ծոցին մէջ յիշելով Ամերիկեան պատմութենէն տարբեր էջ մը:

Այդ էջը մոռցուած ըլլալ կը թուի եւ սակայն ցեղասպանութեան հարիւրամեակի մօտեցումով պիտի վերակենդանանայ: Իմ յիշողութեանս մէջ է մօտ դար մը առաջ արտայայտուած Ամերիկեան բարերարութեան ոգին: 1915-1930, մօտ 15 տարիներ, նախ կոչուած "The American Committee for Armenian & Syrian Relief" եւ ապա 1919-ին պաշտօնապէս Ամերիկեան Գոնկրէսի կողմէ կոչուած "Near East Relief":

«Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Նպաստամատոյց» Ընկերակցութիւնը, նետուեցաւ արշաւի մը նախ ծանօթացնելու հայ ժողովուրդի արհաւիրքը Ամերիկեան հանրային կարծիքին - կը յիշէք The Starving Armenians արտայայտութիւնը - եւ ապա նպաստելու դրամահաւաքի մը: Հաւաքուած \$117,000,000 տոլարը յատկացուեցաւ Եղեռնէն փրկուած որբերուն, նպաստելով անոնց զարգացման: Նպաստամատոյց կոչուած ծովային արշաւանքով, Near East Relief-ը Ամերիկայէն առաքեց սննդեղէն, հագուստեղէն եւ ապահով բնակութեան նպաստող բեռեր: Near East Relief-ը գաղթականներ հաստատեց, հիւանդանոցներ, որբանոցներ եւ արհեստանոցներ հիմնեց աւելի քան 130,000 որբերու համար որոնցմէ 30,000 կը գտնուէին մէկ որբանոցի մէջ Կիւմրի-Ալեքսանտրաբոլ քաղաքին մէջ, մինչ ուրիշներ տարածուած էին Երեւանէն Պոլիս, Պէլքորս, Թիֆլիս, մինչեւ Երուսաղէմ:

Ըսուած է թէ Near East Relief բարերարութիւնը վեհ արարք մըն էր, որ ըստ պատմագէտ Howard Sachar-ի տառացիօրէն ամբողջ ազգ մը ողջ փրկեց:

Յառաջ ցատկէնք մինչեւ 1988ի Մայիտակի բնական աղէտը եւ ապա ուրիշ աղետներ նախա եւ ապա յետ անկախ Հայաստանի մէջ:

Այսօր մեր ժողովուրդը կը տառապի եւ ցաւի մէջ է: Սուրիոյ եւ Իրաքի մէջ ապրուած մարդկային աղէտները ողբալի իրականութիւններ են որոնք իրենց հետեւանքներով հետք ձգած են նաեւ մեր հայրենիքին վրայ:

Ես եւ դուն զաւակներն ու թոռներն ենք Եղեռնէն ճողոպրած հայութեան:

Ես եւ դուն կը վայելենք Աստուծոյ օրհնութիւնները, կ'ապրինք բարեկեցիկ կեանք մը յարաբերական խաղաղութեան եւ առատութեան մէջ:

Այսօր մեր հերթն է յոյս ներշնչելու, տկարները եւ կարիքաւորները հոգալու, գաղթականները պատսպարելու եւ մեր հայրենիքը հզօրացնելու:

Դարերու ընթացքին մեր ժողովուրդի կենդանի յառաջխաղացքը, բռնութեան, հալածանքի եւ աղէտի «մահուան շուքի ձորին մէջ» եղած է արդիւնքը Քրիստոսով

ներշնչուած Յոյսին, ապրելու անընկճելի կամքին, հիմնուած անխախտ հաւատքի, Աստուծոյ շնորհքին եւ ձեր նման Բարի Մամարացիներու վրայ:

Այսօր մեր կարգն է բարերարութեան այդ ոգին մեր ուսերուն վրայ առնելու եւ անոր պատասխանատուութիւնը ստանցնելու:

Դար մը առաջ մեր կրած դառն փորձառութեան նման, այսօր եւս, սեւ ամպեր կուտակուած են մեր ազգային երկնակամարին վրայ: Ապագան մութ կը թուի եւ մենք պէտք է պատրաստ ըլլանք ամէն գալիքի:

Մեր ազգի ապագայ ղեկավարները գուցէ անոնց շարքին են որոնց այսօր ես եւ դուն նպաստի ձեռք կ'երկարենք: Մեր ազգի ապագան կախեալ է այսօրուայ մեր ընթացքէն եւ վարուելակերպէն: Զգլանանք եւ չընկրկինք Աստուածահաճոյ այդ բարերարութեան ոգիի կիրարկումէն, ձեռք ձեռքի, Ամերիկայի թէ Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան միջոցաւ:

Իմ աղօթքս է որ մենք ոչ միայն գոհունակութեամբ ընդունինք Աստուծոյ անսահման սէրը այլ մեր կեանքի օրինակով, սիրով եւ գոհողութեամբ ցոլացնենք զայն մեր ժողովուրդի եւ մարդկութեան ուղղութեամբ:

Շնորհակալութիւն: ☐



Զաւէն Զա' Բրիսիլա եւ Վեր. Ժօրճ Տապաօ, Զաւէն եւ Սօնա Խանճեան:

Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Նախագահ Միհրան Ճիզմէճեանի Պատգամը Դեկտեմբեր 6-ին Թորոնթոյի մէջ տեղի ունեցած Ընկերակցութեան 30-Ամեակի Տօնակատարութեան

Հոգեւոր հայրեր, Յարգարժան հիւրեր եւ սիրելի ներկաներ: Բարի եկած էք, Ընկերակցութեանս հիմնադրութեան 30-ամեակի տօնակատարութեան առիթով կազմակերպուած այս հանգանակային սենեկային համերգին:

Կ'ողջունեմ ձեզ մեր Տիրոջ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի անունով եւ սիրով: Միանալով սաղմոսերգութիւն կ'ըսեմ,

«Ով իմ անձս օրինէ՛ Տէրը եւ Անոր բոլոր բարերարութիւնները մի մոռնար»:

Փառաբանութեան եւ շնորհակալութեան օր մըն է այսօր: Մենք Փառք կու տանք Աստուծոյ Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան 30 տարիներու կեանքին համար: Այո, անցնող երեսուն տարիներու ընթացքին թէեւ ունեցանք կարգ մը վերիվայրուիմներ եւ դժուարութիւններ, սակայն Իր շնորհքով կրցանք յաղթահարել զանոնք: Այս բոլորին մէջ փառքը եւ պատիւը կը պատկանի Աստուծոյ, աշխատանքն ու ծառայութիւնը մեզի, իսկ մեր սրտագին շնորհակալութիւնները ձեզի սիրելի բարեկամներ՝ որ ձեր աղօթքներով եւ նիւթական նուէրներով մասնակցեցաք մեր Աւետարանչական ծրագիրներուն:

Կը գոհանանք Աստուծմէ եւ փառք կու տանք այսօր որ 30 տարիներ առաջ գտնուեցան առաջնորդներ (թիւով 19) որոնք հիմնեցին այս բարեսիրական կազմակերպութիւնը, լուծելու համար Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներուն դիմագրաւած դժուարութիւնները արտասահման նիւթական նպաստ եւ օժանդակութիւն հասցնելու:

Շնորհակալութիւն նաեւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան այդ օրերու Նախագահին, Գանձապահին, Գործադիր Տնօրէնին եւ Դաշտի Վարիչին, որոնք հիմնուելով իրենց տարիներու փորձառութեան վրայ, մեծապէս նպաստեցին մեր առած առաջին դողող քայլերու ընթացքին:

Այսօր, 30 տարիներ ետք Աստուծոյ շնորհքով մենք կը քալենք աւելի հաստատաքայլ եւ կը շարունակենք բերել մեր նիւթական եւ բարոյական նպաստը, Հայաստանի, Արցախի եւ Սփիւռքի մեր հայրենակիցներու զանազան կարիքներուն:

Ամեակներ՝ վերջակէտներ չեն ընկերակցութիւններու կեանքերուն մէջ հապա նոր տեսիլքներով եւ խանդավառութեամբ նոր յաղթանակներու օգտագործելի պատեհ առիթներ:

Մեր հայրենակիցները քիչ մը ամէն տեղ Հայաստան, Արցախ կամ Սփիւռք, նորանոր դժուարութիւններու դէմ հանդիման կը գտնուին եւ մեր օժանդակութեան կը կարօտին: Մերն է պարտականութիւնը, պիտի ըսեմ մերն է աստուածահաճոյ պարտաւորութիւնը, ձեռնածալ չնստիլ այլ՝ բերել մեր լաւագոյնը որոշ չափով մեղմացնելու անոնց վիշտն ու տառապանքը:

2011-ին Սօնա Յովսէփեանի եւ Էլի Պերպէրեանի կատարողութեամբ տրուած համերգին յայտարարած էինք

որ համերգին հասոյթը պիտի գործածուի նորոգելու Ասկէրանի մանկապարտէզի շէնքը: Այսօր դուք ականատես վկաները պիտի ըլլաք ամբողջացած ծրագիրին տեսարկով եւ սրահին մէջ զետեղուած նկարներով:

Որոշած եւ պաշտօնապէս ալ յայտարարած ենք որ 2014-ի այս երաժշտական ձեռնարկին հասոյթը պիտի յատկացուի նորոգելու Երեւանի թիւ 77 դպրոցին պատուհանները: Մենք կը հաւատանք որ Աստուծոյ կամքով եւ Ձեր մեր բարեկամներուն սիրայօժար մասնակցութեամբ, պիտի կարենանք իրագործել նաեւ այս ազգօգուտ եւ ազգաշէն ծրագիրը:

30-ամեակի տօնակատարութեան բարեպատեհ այս առիթով Ընկերակցութեանս Խնամակալութիւնը փափաքեցաւ իր շնորհակալութիւնն ու գնահատանքը յայտնել պատուելով՝ Վեր. Եսայի Սարմազեանը եւ Տեաք Անթիպաս Լուսարարեան Թորոնթօ, Յակոբ Քահքէճեան Քէմպրիճ, Փիլզանդ Տանայեան Լոնտոն եւ Միհրան Ճիզմէճեան Թորոնթօ, Օնթարիոյ նահանգին մէջ բնակող մեր ապրող հիմնադիր անդամները որոնք մեզի հետ են այսօր: Այսօր՝ յիշենք նաեւ Ընկերակցութեանս հիմնադիր այն անդամները որոնք իրենց երկնային հանգիստը մտած են եւ արժանացած մեր Տիրոջ «Ապրիս Բարի եւ Հաւատարիմ Ծառայ» խօսքին: Վերք. Յովհաննէս Ակնէրեան, Աբրահամ Ճիզմէճեան եւ Արտաշէս Գերպապեան, Տեաք Գարեգին Սաղըրեան, Բաբգէն Թունթայեան եւ Անթօն Թորունեան:

Այժմ կը հրաւիրեմ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Դաշտի Վարիչ Վեր. Մկրտիչ Մելքոնեանը, յատկապէս հրաւիրուած մասնակցելու մեր այս փառաբանական տօնակատարութեան որ իր ողջոյնի խօսքը յայտնէ, փառաբանութեան աղօթք մը մատուցանէ եւ յանձնէ գնահատագիրները ներկայ Հիմնադիր անդամներուն: □



Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան 30-ամեակի Պաշտամունք Թորոնթոյի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին մէջ:

Մոռնալը Ապերախտությունն է

Հայոց Ցեղասպանության 100-ամեակին առիթով

Վեր. Եսայի Սարմազեան

**«Եւ մատոռուակապետը միտքը չբերաւ
Յովսէփը, հապա մոռցաւ զայն»
(Ծմնդոց 40. 23)**

Ամէն տարի Ապրիլ 24-ին՝ Մեծ եղեռնի տարեդարձին առիթով, մասնաւոր կերպով կը յիշենք Առաջին Ցեղասպանութեան մեր 1.5 միլիոն զոհերը: Կը յիշենք իրաւամբ եւ արդարօրէն: Զանոնք յիշելը մեր ոչ միայն ազգային, այլ նաեւ քրիստոնէական պարտքն է: Նաեւ մարդկային եւ քրիստոնէական ազնիւ առաքինութիւն մըն է:

Աստուծոյ արդարութիւնը (Յայտն. 6. 10) եւ Յիսուսի առաքելութիւնը (Ղուկ. 4. 18, 19) կը պարտադրեն մեզ որ յիշենք զանոնք: Անիկա ոչ միայն քաղաքական հարց մը, այլ նաեւ քրիստոնէական պարտք մը եւ տակաւին չվնասուած պարտամոլութեան մըն է, որու հետամուտ ըլլալու եւ իրենք գիրքեմ մարդկային իրաւունքներու պաշտպան եւ արդարութեան ջատագով նկատող բոլոր ազգերը: Իրաւամբ ըսուած է՝ «Եթէ տակաւին աշխարհի վրայ մէկ ազգ կայ անիրաւուած, կը նշանակէ թէ ամէն ազգ անիրաւ է»: Նաեւ շատ շիտակ է հետեւեալ խօսքը. «Եթէ մասնակից չես լուծումին, մասնակից ես հարցին»:

Սակայն այս օրերուն՝ մեզի շատ մեծ ցաւ կը պատճառէ, իր պահանջները աստուածային պահանջներ նկատող եւ մեզի ճակատագրակից եղող հրեայ ազգի պետութեան ուրացումը հայկական ցեղասպանութեան - զանիկա պարզապէս նկատելով Առաջին Պատերազմին բնական հետեւանքը եղող ողբերգական դէպքերու: Ի՞նչ է արդեօք տարբերութիւնը ծրագրուած կերպով եւ ամիսներ շարունակ հարիւր հազարաւոր հոգիներու մահանալը կիզիչ անապատներու մէջ եւ անոնց որոնք մահացան «կազէ սենեակ»ներու մէջ - թիւի՞, թուականի՞ թէ ...տափութեան աստիճանի:

Անոնց ըրածը կը յիշեցնէ մեզի՝ իրենց իսկ պատմութենէն հետեւեալ Սուրբ Գրային օրինակը,

առնուած Յովսէփի կեանքէն: Յովսէփ Յակոբ Նահապետի ամենէն շատ սիրած զաւակն էր, որու իբր հետեւանք՝ իր եղբայրները նախանձեցան իրեն եւ 20 կտոր արծաթով ծախեցին վաճառականներու, որոնք տարին զինք եգիպտոս:



Քանի որ Յովսէփ արդար էր, Աստուած պահեց ու օրհնեց զինք, մինչեւ իսկ ամբողջ եգիպտոսի կառավարիչ նշանակուեցաւ Փարաւոնին կողմէ: Անգամ մը անբարոյ կեանակցութիւն մը մերժելուն համար, զրպարտուեցաւ, բանտարկուեցաւ եւ եղաւ ... բանտին տեսուչը: Իրեն հետ բանտի մէջ էին նաեւ երկու բարձրաստիճան պաշտօնեաներ՝ Փարաւոնին հացագործապետը եւ մատոռուակապետը, որոնք տարօրինակ երազներ տեսած ըլլալով, խոսոված էին: Յովսէփ, միշտ Աստուծոյ զօրութիւնով, կը մեկնաբանէ անոնց երազը, որու համաձայն՝ հացագործապետը երեք օր ետք կը կախուի ծառէ մը: Իսկ մատոռուակապետը ազատ պիտի արձակուէր եւ նոյն պաշտօնին տիրանար: Ապա Յովսէփ կ'ըսէ իրեն. «Քեզի բարիք եղած ատեն զիս միտքդ բեր, եւ կ'աղաչեմ քեզ, ինծի բարեբարութիւն ըրէ եւ զիս փարաւոնին առջեւ յիշելով, այս տունէն դուրս հանէ. քանզի ... գողցուեցայ եւ հոս ալ բան մը չըրի որ զիս այս գուրը նետեն» (Ծմնդ. 40. 14, 15): Յովսէփին ակնկալածը պարզապէս բարիք մըն էր՝ բարիքին փոխարէն: Սակայն դժբախտաբար, «մատոռուակապետը միտքը չբերաւ Յովսէփը, հապա մոռցաւ զայն»: Ապերախտութիւն ...

Սակայն Աստուած ոչ միայն խնայեց Յովսէփի կեանքը, այլ նաեւ օրհնեց զինք բազմաթիւ

առաքինություններով ու բարիքներով – զինք, իր ընտանիքը եւ իր ազգը: Երբ բաղդատեմ իր կեանքը եւ մեր ազգային կեանքը, անոնց մէջ կը տեսնեմ կարգ մը գուգահեռ երեւոյթներ եւ հոգեւոր դասեր:

Յովսէփ ծնած էր Ք. Ա. 1915-ին եւ – Աստուծոյ նախախնամական մէկ ծրագիրով – հակառակ իրեն պատահած դժուարութիւններուն, ան եղաւ Եգիպտոսի կառավարիչը Ք.Ա. 1880 թուականին, որու ընթացքին ան համայն Եգիպտոսի բնակչութիւնը փրկեց սովամահութենէ (Ծննդ. 41 – 47.): Ք. Ե. 1880-ական թուականներուն հայ ազգը շատ մեծ յառաջդիմութիւն ունեցած ըլլալով Թուրքիոյ մէջ, վախ կար որ անոր երեւիներէն ոմանք կրնային տիրանալ երկրին բարձագոյն պաշտօններուն: Հետեւաբար, ծրագրուեցաւ անոնց ոչ միայն ջարդը եւ ախորժը, այլ նաեւ **ցեղասպանութիւնը** Ք.Ե. 1915-ին: Հայ ժողովուրդը համայն Թուրքիոյ բարիք եւ օրհնութիւն եղած էր, եւ ըստ բազմաթիւ թուրք բնակիչներու, հայերու ախորժուելէն ետք՝ Աստուծոյ օրհնութիւնները վերցուեցան Թուրքիայէն եւ անհկա վերածուեցաւ տեսակ մը անիծեալ երկրի:

Հակառակ որ Յովսէփ ամէն իրաւունք ունէր դժգոհելու եւ կծու հոգի ունենալու իր նակատագիրին ու Աստուծոյ դէմ, զինք մոռցող բանտի ապերախտ ընկերոջ դէմ, նոյնիսկ վրէժ լուծելու իր եղբայրներէն եւ զինք անիրաւաբար բանտարկողէն, ան եղաւ փաղոց, ներող եւ չարիքի փոխարէն՝ բարիք ընող մէկը (Հոովմ. 12. 17-21): Նոյնը ընելու եմք մենք – իբր ֆրիստոնեաներ – բոլոր անոնց որոնք չարիք ըրած են եւ կ'ընեն մեզի որեւէ ատեն: Մէկը ըսած է. «Վրէժխնդրութիւնը գլխաւոր հարց մը ունի – անհկա երբեք չի լուծեր հարցը:» Ընդհակառակը՝ անհկա աւելի կը բարդացնէ հարցը, ինչպէս կ'ըսէ չինական առածը. «Եթէ վրէժխնդրութիւն կը փնտոնես, վստահ եղիր որ նախ երկու գերեզման փորած ես արդէն»:

Սակայն Յովսէփի կեանքին եւ մեր ազգին նակատագրին միջեւ եղած ամենէն ուշագրաւ եւ ուսանելի գուգահեռը՝ Աստուծոյ բացառիկ օրհնութիւններն են, որոնցմով ան օժտեց Յովսէփի ընտանիքը եւ հայ ազգը – ցեղասպանութենէն ի վեր մինչեւ այսօր: Աստուած Յովսէփի տուաւ երկու զաւակ Մանասէ եւ Եփրեմ (Ծննդ. 41. 50-51): Մանասէ կը նշանակէ «մոռնալ» կամ «ան որ մոռցնել կուտայ»: Աստուած առջինեկ զաւակ մը՝ Մանասէն տալով Յովսէփի, մոռցնել տուաւ իրեն իր նախկին բոլոր ցաւերը եւ դժուարութիւնները: Եփրեմ կը նշանակէ «պտղաբեր ըլլալ» կամ «զաւակներ տալ»: Հետագային՝ անոնց մեծ հայրը Յակոբ – օրհնեց զանոնք եւ անոնց անուններով կոչուեցան նաեւ այն հողամասերը որ ժառանգեցին անոնց սերունդները:

Նոյնպէս ալ Աստուած օրհնած է մեր ազգը՝ Հայաստանով («Մանասէ») եւ Սփիւռքով («Եփրեմ»), մոռնալու համար մեր անցեալի ցաւերը եւ իւրաքանչիւրին տալով մօտաւորապէս երեք միլիոն զաւակներ: Մեծ եղեռնի տարեդարձերը ըլլալու են գոհաբանական առիթներ՝ փառք տալու Աստուծոյ մեր ազատ հայրենիքին, բարգաւառ Սփիւռքին եւ անոնց վերապրած տասը միլիոն զաւակներուն համար:

Շիտակ է որ վերքը կը բուժուի, ցաւը կ'անցնի, բայց ... **սպին կը մնայ**: Յիսուսի խաչելութեան ցաւերը ժամանակաւոր էին: Ան յարութիւն առաւ, սակայն վերքերուն հետքերը տակաւին իր կողին վրայ էին իբր փաստ եւ ճշմարտութիւն՝ եկեղեցիին եւ հաւատացեալներուն համար, անոնց վրայ հիմնելու եւ շարունակելու իր Աւետարանին Առաքելութիւնը:

Հետեւաբար, մեր պարտականութիւնն է **յիշել** եւ **յիշեցնել** մեզի պատահածը – ցեղասպանութիւնը որ ոչ թէ **փաստի** պէտք ունի, այլ **հատուցում**: Անոնց համար՝ որոնք պարկեշտ են եւ պատրաստ զանհկա ընդունելու, փաստերը պէտք եղածէն աւելի են: Անոնք որոնք պարկեշտ եւ պատրաստ չեն, անոնց համար ոչ մէկ փաստ իմաստ եւ օգուտ ունի:

Ցեղասպանութիւնը **ցեղասպանութիւն** է եւ ոչ թէ **ողբերգութիւն** կամ **ողբերգութիւններ**, ինչպէս կը յիշեցնեն մեզի կարգ մը «բարեկամ» պետութիւններ եւ փաղափագէտներ: Ողբերգութիւնը զանհկա **ուրանալը եւ մոռնալը** է, մանաւանդ երբ մենք՝ որպէս հայեր զանհկա մոռնանք:

Երեմ մարգարէն ակնարկելով իր ազգի Բաբելոնական Ախորին (605-586 Ք.Ա.) աղաղակեց Աստուծոյ՝ «Մեզի եղածը յիշէ ով Տէր, նայէ ու մեր նախատիմքը տես» (Ողբ Երեմ. 5. 11): Աստուած յիշեց եւ օրհնեց զանոնք: Ան մեզ ալ յիշեց եւ օրհնեց: Փա՞ստ – մեր գոյութիւնը: Բայց մենք կը յիշե՞նք զանոնք: Ի՞նչ կ'ընենք պահելու համար մեր գոյութիւնը: Ըսուած է՝ «Մեռնիլը հարց մը չէ: Սպաննելը՝ է» : Մանաւանդ անմեղներ սպաննելը: Սակայն աւելի մեծ հարց մըն է – հաւանաբար մահացու մեղք է ապերախտութիւնը – մոռնալ այն սպաննուածները որոնք սպաննուած են իրենց հաւատին, ազգի մը պատկանելուն եւ ուրիշներուն համար, ինչպէս մեր նահատակները: Փառք տանք Աստուծոյ մեզ պահած եւ օրհնած ըլլալուն համար: **Յիշե՛նք** մեր նահատակները, որովհետեւ զանոնք չյիշելը, մոռնալը – մանաւանդ գիտակցաբար մոռնալը – **ապերախտութիւն** է: Իսկ զանոնք յիշելը ոչ միայն ֆրիստոնէական առաքինութիւն է, այլ նաեւ **պահանջ** եւ **պարտականութիւն**: Մեր առաջնակարգ մարտահրաւերն է: □

ՀԱՅ ԱՌԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱԾԽԱՐՀԱՅԻՆ ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴԸ Հեղինակ՝

Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Թուրթիկեան

Դոկտ. Արի Թօփուզխանեան

Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի Գործադիր Տնօրէն, բազմաժանր հոգեւորական, համալսարաններու դասախօս, յօդուածագիր ու հեղինակ՝ Վեր. Վահան Թուրթիկեանի արտադրած 37-րդ հատորը՝ ՀԱՅ ԱՌԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱԾԽԱՐՀԱՅԻՆ ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴԸ (The Armenian Evangelical World Council) Խորագրով՝ նուիրուած է 1978-ին հիմնուած սոյն Խորհուրդին որուն Գործադիր-Տնօրէնի պաշտօնը կը վարէ ներկայիս, որոշ ժամանակ մը անոր նախագահը ըլլալէ ետք: Շուրջ 400 էջեր պարունակող այս պատկերազարդ գիրքը բաղկացած է երկու հաւասար մասերէ՝ անգլերէն ու հայերէն, եւ ունի 33 գլուխ՝ իւրաքանչիւրին սեփական ծանօթագրութեամբ:

Հայոց ցեղասպանութեան հարիւրամեակի տարուան առաջին օրերուն լոյս տեսած սոյն աշխատասիրութիւնը կը ներկայացնէ Խորհուրդին գոյապատճառն ու գործունէութիւնները՝ վերջին չորս տասնամեակերու ընթացքին: Անոր հիմնադրութեան նպատակը եղած է մէկտեղել աշխարհացրի Հայ Աւետարանականները, զօրացնելու համար անոնց յանձնառութիւնը՝ Աստուծոյ թագաւորութեան տարածման էական պարտականութեան մէջ: Մասնաւորաբար կարիքը զգացուած է համագործակցութիւն ստեղծելու հետեւեալ ինքնանկախ եկեղեցական, աւետարանական, ու բարեսիրական հինգ կազմակերպութիւններու միջեւ: Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութիւն, Ֆրանսայի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութիւն, Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Միութիւն, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութիւն, եւ Ստեփան Փիլիպոսեան Հիմնարկ:

Լիբանանի, Սուրիոյ, Յունաստանի, Ֆրանսայի եւ Միացեալ Նահանգներու մէջ գումարուած ժողովներու ընթացքին՝ ո՛չ միայն կրօնական բնոյթ կրող նիւթեր արծարծուած են, այլ որոշումներ տրուած են համագային հարցերու նկատմամբ: զատապարտութիւն Սումկայիթի հայկական ջարդերու պատասխանատուներուն, զօրակցութիւն Հայաստանի եւ Արցախի անկախութեան, տեւական նպաստ 1988-ի աւերիչ երկրաշարժի աղետեալներուն, օժանդակութիւն մայր հայրենիքի վերաշինութեան, արտագաղթի դադրեցում, կապերու սերտացում Հայրենիքի եւ Մփիւքի միջեւ, հզօրացում Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան քաղաքական, տնտեսական, ընկերային ու հոգեւոր մարզերէն ներս:

Հայրենիքի հոգեւոր վերելքին սատարելու համար, Խորհուրդը 1994-ին նշանակեց տեւական հոգեւոր առաջնորդ մը, որուն գործունէութիւնը յետագային ընդարձակուեցաւ դէպի Արցախ, Վրաստան եւ Եւրասիա: 1996-ին՝ համաշխարհային տարողութեամբ տօնուեցաւ

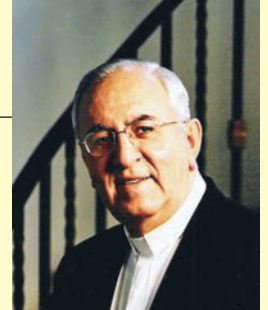
Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու հիմնարկութեան 150-ամեակը՝ նախ Փարիզ, յետոյ Պոլիս ու Երեւան, ուր հանդիսութիւնը միջ-եկեղեցական դարձաւ շնորհիւ երջանկայիշատակ Գարեգին Ա. Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոսի ներկայութեան եւ սրտաբուխ պատգամին:

1997-ին Երեւանի մէջ հիմնուեցաւ Հայ Աւետարանական Աստուածաբանական Ճեմարան մը: Երկու տարի ետք՝ Խորհուրդը մասնակցեցաւ Հայաստան-Սփիւք Ա. Խորհրդածողովին, իսկ 2001-ին՝ Հայաստանի մէջ քրիստոնէութեան իբր պետական կրօն հռչակման 1700-ամեակի պաշտօնական տօնակատարութեան: 2002-ին Խորհուրդին միացան Հայաստանի ու Եւրասիոյ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիները: 2003-ին կազմակերպուեցաւ Հայ Աւետարանական Հովիւներու Ա. Համաշխարհային Համագումարը՝ Ֆրանսայի մէջ, հրատարակուեցաւ երկարատեւ ի վեր սպասուած Հովուական Ձեռագիրքը, ինչպէս նաեւ արդի արեւելահայերէն Նոր Կտակարանը:

2006-ին Երեւանի մէջ գումարուեցաւ Համահայ Աւետարանական Համագումար մը, ու տօնուեցաւ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ հիմնադրութեան 160-ամեակը: 2011-ին Խորհուրդը դարձեալ մասնակցեցաւ Հայաստան-Սփիւք Խորհրդածողովին եւ Հայաստանի Գ. Հանրապետութեան 20-ամեակի հանդիսութեանց: Նմանապէս 2011-ին ունեցաւ իր ներդրումը Հայաստան-Սփիւք Ե. Խորհրդածողովին:

Խորհուրդը «կը ջատագովէ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ խղճի ազատութեան հիմնական սկզբունքը»: Սակայն «կը հաւատայ, թէ կեդրոնաձիգ եկեղեցավարական դրութեան մը բացակայութիւնը կրնայ փորձութիւն դառնալ Եկեղեցական Միութեան մը թերացումին՝ առնուած որոշումները կիրարկելու իր պարտականութիւններուն մէջ»: Ուստի կը հրաւիրէ իր բաղկացուցիչ եկեղեցական Միութիւններն ու կազմակերպութիւնները, որ «իրենց ուշադրութիւնը կեդրոնացնեն իրենց նմանութիւններուն վրայ», նաեւ «վերահասու ըլլան այն իրողութեան, թէ՛ քանի որ Քրիստոսի Մարմինին անդամներ են՝ փոխադարձաբար իրարմէ կախեալ են»:

Կը շնորհաւորենք Խորհուրդին անխոնջ եւ ժրջան Գործադիր Տնօրէնը, սոյն համապարփակ գիրքին համար, զոր կը յանձնարարենք ընթերցող հասարակութեան: Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու ներկայ վիճակով եւ ապագայ մարտահրաւերներով հետաքրքրուող անձեր, այս գիրքէն օրինակներ ունենալու համար կրնան դիմել հետեւեալ հասցէին. Armenian Heritage Committee, 3922 Yorba Linda Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48073, USA.





**JULY 6-21, 2015
AMAA SUMMER**

INTERNSHIP



"GOD'S WORK IN OUR HEARTS"

***Two weeks of Learning, Worship, Fellowship, Service and Witnessing
God's work through AMAA in Motherland Armenia***

For registration and further details please contact

Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian (626)216-2446 – Email : badvelivatche@yahoo.com

Mr. Darren Getzoyan (781)775-8976 – Email : Darren@getzoyan.us

Miss Tamar Melkonian (559)824-6083 – Email : akhtamarigm@comcast.net

Applications can be picked up
at local church offices or by
visiting amaa.org

Back Cover Photos: Armenian Evangelical Church of Ourfa Then and Now
(Courtesy of Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian)

The first Armenian Evangelical Community of Ourfa was formed in 1851, when five members from the Armenian Evangelical Church of Aintab came to the city to do Evangelism. In the beginning, the services were held in a wooden structure until Rev. Hagop Abouhayatian (martyred in 1895) was able to raise 5,000 Ottoman Golds in Germany and initiate the construction of the magnificent sanctuary in the Tel-Fundur part of the Armenian Quarter of Ourfa. The sanctuary was completed and dedicated in 1880.

After three waves of Turkish atrocities in 1895, 1915 and 1921, Ourfa Armenians left their hometown and took refuge in different parts of Syria, mainly in Aleppo. Rev. Ephraim K. Jernazian, whose memoirs recently appeared under the title "Judgement Unto Truth," was the last pastor before the final exodus of Armenians from Ourfa. In 1923, local Turkish authorities confiscated the sanctuary and used it as a jail. Finally in 1956 it was remodeled as the "Firfiri" mosque.

Additional pictures and information about this Church and other Pre-Genocide Armenian Evangelical Churches of Cilicia will appear in an upcoming book that Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian is currently working on.

The AMAA Board of Directors & staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

Manoushag Jamgotchian

Los Angeles, CA

Rev. William Kalaydjian

Riverside, NY

* **Movses Sherbetjian**

Thousand Oaks, CA

Manuel Vartabedian

Westwood, NJ

***"Blessed are the dead who die
in the Lord... they will rest from
their labor, for their deeds will
follow them." (Rev. 14:13)***

* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

Haigouhi Iskikian

"...There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day." (2 Tim. 4:8)

Haigouhi Iskikian, graced this world and was laid to rest on January 5, 2015. Her love and warmth has left us with a keener sense of our humanity.

Haigouhi was born in Nicosia, Cyprus, on June 15, 1925, to Haroutune and Serpouhi Jamgotchian. She graduated from the Armenian Evangelical College of Beirut, Lebanon in 1944. She then entered the Nursing School of the Danish Mission Hospital in Nebk, Syria, obtaining her nursing diploma in 1948.

In August 1948, Haigouhi joined the staff of the Christian Medical Center Hospital (CMC), in Beirut, as their first nurse-supervisor, with Doctors Puzant Krikorian, Peter Manoogian, and Mr. Augustine Badeer.

After two years of service at CMC Hospital, she married Joseph Iskikian on May 13, 1950. God blessed them with two beautiful children, Rhoda and John.

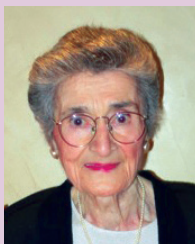
Due to political instability in Lebanon, the Iskikians immigrated to the U.S. on May 26, 1962. For 28 years, Haigouhi worked as a Registered Nurse at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco, in the Intensive Care Nursery. She was admired by the doctors and her coworkers.

Haigouhi was blessed with many talents. A faithful servant of God, she was active in her church community. She was a wonderful cook and loved to entertain her family and friends.

2000 was a tragic year for the family. Rhoda suffered a brain tumor and was laid to rest on March 28, 2001. After this great loss, Haigouhi developed numerous medical problems. Her devotion in the Lord gave her the spiritual comfort to carry on.

In 2013, Haigouhi was admitted to Lytton Garden Skilled Nursing Facility in Palo Alto where she stayed for over one year. Within a few months after returning home, she fractured her hip and was hospitalized at the Sequoia Hospital. On January 5, 2015, she went Home to be with the Lord.

Haigouhi is survived by her husband, Joseph, her son, John, with his spouse Kerry, her son-in-law Edgard, by her grandchildren, Christiana, her spouse and sons: Daniel and Ezekiel, Maral, and Spencer, and by her sister Anahid, with her spouse John, and by other numerous relatives and friends. □



Joséphine Hripsimé Léonian

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Joséphine Hripsimé Léonian, mother of Revs. Gilbert and René Léonian and Annie Léonian Mikaelian (wife of Rev. Joël Mikaelian), passed away on February 14, 2015 in the faith and in the peace of the Lord.

Joséphine was born on January 1, 1927 to Boghos and Ovsana Kouyoumdjian (née Harboyan) at Port de Bouc, near Marseille. Her parents were natives of Besni, near Adyaman in Cilicia and survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Later the Kouyoumdjian and Harboyan families found refuge in Aleppo, Syria.

From a very young age Joséphine thirsted for God and the spiritual life. Her parents gave her a Christian education within the Armenian Catholic Church. But it was within the Armenian Evangelical Church in her neighbourhood of Saint Loup that her faith in Jesus Christ nourished and structured. At the age of 17 she made a personal commitment to follow Christ at the Sumène Christian Camp in the Gard department.

In August 1949 she married Léon Léonian and they were blessed with three children. While her husband Léon was working hard to keep his family, Joséphine devoted her life in bringing up her three children. When her children were called to Christian ministry, she considered it a privilege to offer God her dearest loved ones to serve the Gospel and the Armenian people. She would always be a discreet but supportive pastors' mother, full of encouragement, radiating faith, generosity and a sense of service. Joséphine and Léon had the joy of knowing 17 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on Thursday, February 19, at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont (Marseille), attended by the Pastors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France, the priest of the Beaumont Armenian Apostolic Church, representatives from City Hall, leaders of the Armenian community and many family members and friends. The thanksgiving service was permeated by a spirit of peace and hope, which was a true reflection of her character. The memorial donations were designated for the persecuted Christians in Syria and Iraq.

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, may the name of the Lord be praised." (Job 1:21) □



Rev. Robert Sarkissian

Rev. Robert Sarkissian, a dedicated pastor and member of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University for many years, passed away on December 18, 2014 in France at the age of 85.

He was the son of Arsen Sarkissian and Manoushag Kaprielian of Erzurum, Western Armenia, who were the only survivors of their families from the Armenian Genocide.

His mother was raised in an Arab family and later found refuge in Jerusalem. She found a temporary home in an orphanage in Lebanon and later married Arsen. Two weeks after their marriage they moved to Marseille, France. They were blessed with two sons and a daughter.

At an early age, Hovhannes (Robert) attended the Armenian Evangelical Church of St. Louis in Marseille. He was very attentive and intelligent. One of his teachers encouraged him to attend *lycée*, (secondary school in France). After graduating with a baccalaureate degree, he attended the Seminary of Aix. During his years in the Seminary, he served in the Sunday School of the Armenian Evangelical Church of St. Louis, as well as the Youth Group of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont. He also attended classes at a military school and served in the Army in Morocco. He received the title of sub-lieutenant and the medal of lieutenant.

In 1955, Rev. Sarkissian became the first ordained Armenian minister born in France who served in the churches of St. Chamond, Gardanne, Marseille and St. Antoine. He also contributed to the *Panpere*, the monthly publication of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of France. From 1961-62 he served at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasa in Istanbul, Turkey, where he collaborated with the late Hrant Güzelian in his efforts to rescue the Armenian youth from the inner cities and bring them to Istanbul for an Armenian Christian education.

Rev. Sarkissian also served in several other ministries including positions as Interim Pastor of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut, Pastor of the French Evangelical Church of Beirut and as Director of the Howard Karageuzian Foundation. He retired from his many years of service in 2013 and moved to France.

He was married to Terese Sarjee, whom he met at the Near East School of Theology, and was blessed with a son and daughter. □





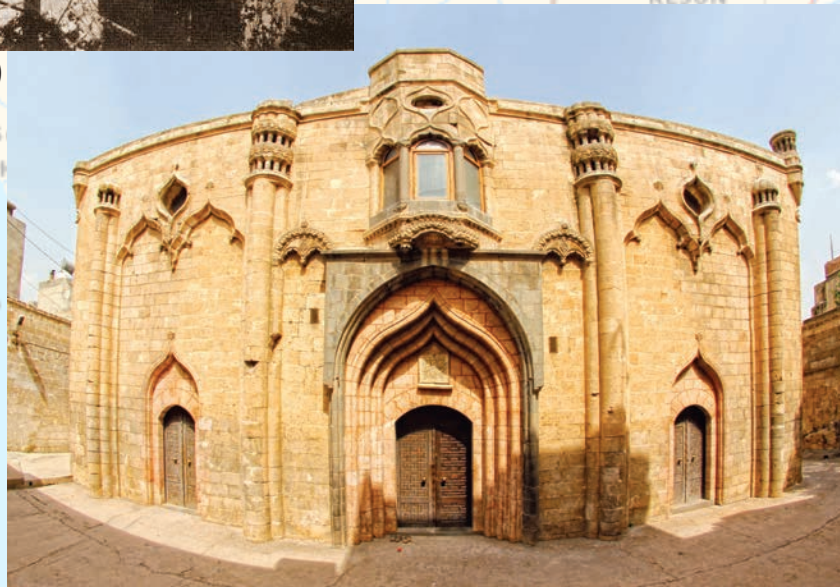
Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No. 55

Armenian Evangelical Church of Ourfa Then and Now



Armenian Evangelical Church of Ourfa (1880)



The building of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ourfa (today), converted to a Mosque.

